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Like combat troops, police officers deal with job stress and even PTSD. Now they're facing a rise in aggression toward law enforcement. By Sue Russell

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The "ultimate embed," Sean Michael Flynn tells the incredible story of his National Guard unit's journey from Ground Zero to Iraq. By Mathew Tully

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At last, young veterans win an education benefit befitting their sacrifice. By Philip M. Callaghan

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On Gitmo, public perception doesn't match military reality, says its deputy commanding general. *By Jeff Stoffer* 

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The Legion gets behind the Air Compassion for Veterans program, which provides free flights for families in need. By James V. Carroll

### **ON THE COVER**

Army Reserve veteran Sheila Pion cared for injured soldiers in Kuwait. Back home, she found herself in a struggle to pay for college with minimal GI Bill benefits. See Page 26.

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### Signs of the times

Instead of pursuing celebrity autographs, Kyle Nappi, 18, of Ostrander, Ohio, limits his requests to men and women who have served in the U.S. military. He has collected more than 1,700 autographs from active-duty troops and veterans from World War I, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, the Gulf War, and Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"I've always been interested in military history, especially World War II," Nappi says. "The best way to learn about history is to talk to those who participated in the making of it."

To be included in Nappi's collection, write to him at 1890 Warren Road, Ostrander, OH 43061 or send an e-mail to knap607@yahoo.com

For more on Nappi, go to the July 3 issue of The American Legion Online Update. www.legion.org/ whatsnew/publications/ newsletter

James V. Carroll



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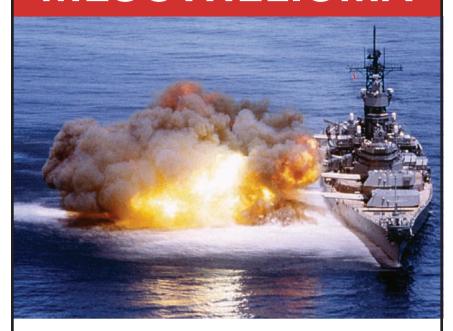
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### 'The Safety Net'

After reading "The Safety Net" (June), I had flashbacks to 1969. I was gathered around the television with my college buddies, watching the Selective Service folks pull numbered ping-pong balls from a machine and matching them with a date of birth. My draft lottery number was 17. Within three months, I was in basic training.

During my two years in the Army, I received many letters from friends, telling me of all the ways young men were getting out of the draft. Some became professional students. Others got married and started having children. Some managed to get a doctor to provide them with a medical excuse as to why they could not serve. Still others crossed the border into Canada.

At the end of my two-year enlistment I returned home. used my GI Bill, and was proud to have served my country. Yet I was a little bitter at the time about the inequity of the draft system. So when a slot opened on the local draft board, I took it. I have been a member for 19 years. From experience, I can say the current system is extremely fair with fewer loopholes. The only downside I see – and I have two daughters – is that the draft excludes females. I think women, who now make up 12 percent of the military, should also be drafted.

- Raymond P. Toczek, Chicago

In response to Jav Londino's article, I must point out that drafting U.S. citizens for military service is nothing less than involuntary servitude. A draft is in direct opposition to the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The executive, legislative and judicial branches of government agree that involuntary servitude is unconstitutional but reserve the right to define what the words really mean. Our government servants have taken it upon themselves to determine what is best for us common citizens, taking the attitude that they are the anointed social supervisors acting for our well being.

- Bart W. Ginsbach, Nolanville, Texas

### **'Our Other Immigration** Problem'

The article by Alan W. Dowd (June) is very interesting and, for the most part, accurate. However, current demographics do not support the number of legal immigrants entering this country. Our current

population of 300 million already endangers our environment and overburdens public services such as education. medical care and law enforcement. Compound current legal immigration with the millions of illegal aliens who cross our borders, and matters are certain to get worse.

- Lucian A. Mascarella, Melbane, N.C.

Why is our government not pushing the Mexican government to play a larger role in preventing illegal aliens from crossing from the Mexican side of the border? My conclusions are that the Mexican government likes the dollars its citizens send home to their families, rids itself of its lowincome or unemployed citizens, and is willing to let the United States absorb the cost of border enforcement.

It's time we force the Mexican government to meet its obligations, and stop encouraging its citizens to illegally migrate north across our borders.

Doris Gross, San Jose, Calif.

### 'A Salute to Military Fathers'

Your feature on military fathers (June) is great. My comment regards Bob Weger, the veteran who at age 82 continues to see that local veterans are buried with military honors. My family and I had the fortune of being part of a graveside military funeral in April for Jim Longshore, an Army infantryman who served in World War II. There, veterans like Mr. Weger conducted a moving service with a 21-gun salute. I cannot tell vou how comforting that was, and how proud Jim's children and grandchildren were. Those who honor veterans make quite a sacrifice, and I want them to know we appreciate them.

– Ellen Longshore, Alexandria, Ky.

Thank you for publishing my daughter's Father's Day letter. I am very proud of her. However, I would like to point out that the Air Force does not have command sergeant majors. That's an Army rank of E-9. CMSGT stands for chief master sergeant, an Air Force title for the E-9 grade.

- Robert L. Snyder, Sheridan, Ark.

### **Pro-growth policies?**

In June's Big Issues, Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., says the Democratic majority opposes "progrowth tax policies that have benefited the economy." He is referring to the Bush income-tax cuts for the wealthy, which have bankrupted our government, crippled our stock market, and contributed to a record number of home foreclosures and bankruptcies. How, under any stretch of imagination, can these be

considered "pro-growth" policies?

When President Reagan cut taxes on the lowest income brackets back in the 1980s, his tax cuts helped all Americans. As a result, the Reagan tax cuts ushered in the greatest era of growth and prosperity in our nation's history.

We need to replace the Bush tax cuts with Reagan-style tax cuts as soon as possible.

- Ken Close, Toledo, Ohio



### **Boys in uniform**

I saw the illustration on the cover of the June magazine depicting a young boy wearing a military uniform. It reminded me of a picture I took in Vietnam in 1967 of a little Vietnamese boy wearing my uniform shirt and helmet. I returned to Vietnam last March and revisited his family's village. It brought back many memories of little Long Duc III and his family. The cover illustration only reinforced those memories.

I was very close to the family and was saddened to learn on my return to Vietnam that all had passed away. I did find three people in the village who remembered me, and we had a fine time looking at old pictures over lunch. It is healthy for an old sergeant to remember that there were good times during the Vietnam War.

- Eric Cortez, Eureka, Calif.

Some covers of *The American Legion Magazine* are excellent. Some are even great. But the June cover illustration saluting military fathers is *outstanding*.

- Phillip Berman, Springfield, Mass.

### 'Saddle Magic'

I extend my appreciation to *The American Legion Magazine* and author Ken Olsen for publishing "Saddle Magic" (June). As a co-founder of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center therapeutic riding program at Fort Myer, Va., and a member of the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association's "Horses for Heroes" task force, I am very pleased with the article.

Thank you for highlighting the benefits to veterans of working with horses.

- Larry D. Pence, Fredericksburg, Va.

### 'Rescue in Afghanistan'

Richard Miniter's article (May) is beyond excellent. It is accurate, detailed and presents us with a new generation of truegrit American heroes. The spirits of the men of the Alamo and Corregidor now have company. God bless them.

– Richard B. Abell, Alexandria, Va.

Correction: U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson is misidentified in an April article, "A Well-Regulated Militia," and again in June. Wilson is the Republican congressman representing South Carolina's Second District.

The Web site for The American Legion Children's Home in Ponca City, Okla., was misprinted. www.americanlegionchildrens home.org

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## Our courts: terrorism's new weapon

There's a saying I once heard: "You can't talk a hog into slaughtering itself." I am not sure I believe that anymore, after the U.S. Supreme Court's June decision to give detained enemy war combatants the ability to sue us in our own judicial system. Captured terrorists from foreign lands, or so the ruling suggests, have U.S. constitutional rights, just like you and me. Members of al-Qaeda, the Taliban and various other rogue cells committed to our destruction are now granted legal privileges previously enjoyed only by U.S. citizens.

The decision is what it is. And we must respect it. However, the 5-4 ruling raises many chilling concerns about the future of America's ability to fight and defend itself in a time of war.

The ruling punches a hole in the president's wartime decision-making authority and subordinates Congress in order to give suspected terrorists their day in our courts. To extend the argument, the split-second battle-field decisions of U.S. officers and troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan may soon be – or may now be – influenced by the odds of winning in court, should it come to that. That's a lot to ask of a soldier caught in a firefight against an enemy without insignia, flag, military uniform or any respect for the Geneva Conventions. To shoot or not to shoot? To detain or let go? U.S. combat troops have to trust their training, instincts and morals, which are already far superior to those of any foe on the planet.

As the high court's decision was reported, I thought of Matt Maupin and his family. In 2004, the 20-year-old private first class from Ohio was captured by insurgents in Iraq. He was riding in a fuel tanker as part of a 26-vehicle convoy between Balad and Baghdad International Airport when the ambush came. The last time the young Army reservist was seen alive, he was surrounded by masked gunmen in a video aired by Al Jazeera. Another video was later released depicting the execution of a U.S. soldier who may have been him. His parents spent four years in anguish, without word, not knowing, until their son's remains were identified using DNA testing last spring.

Such is the courtroom of our enemies.

Maupin's terrorist captors, who stormed out of private homes and roadside ditches in their ambush on the convoy, scoff at justice. They simply attack, capture, murder and make a public spectacle of it. That's Terrorism 101

We need to remember who the enemy is. The enemy hijacked four U.S. jetliners on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, and killed thousands of innocent people. The enemy seized journalist Daniel Pearl and executed him in a cowardly act of public bravado in Pakistan; a terrorist at Guantanamo Bay took credit for that beheading in 2007. The enemy is not a soldier but a fanatical thug who, at Guantanamo Bay, is fed well, treated by doctors and dentists, given religious freedoms and recreational activities. Those who are not dangerous are returned to their countries of origin. Those who remain devoted to our destruction, or are seriously suspected of it, remain in U.S. detention. It's pretty simple, really. At least it was until the ruling in June.



National Commander Marty Conatser

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Phoenix is the home of the The American Legion's 90th National Convention Aug. 22-28. Among this year's highlights is a special event developed in lieu of an outdoor parade in the Arizona heat. "The American Legion Family Presents a Tribute to Service" will be a spectacular indoor event on Aug. 24 that will include a scaled-back indoor parade, a mass enlistment/ re-enlistment ceremony coordinated by The American Legion Department of Arizona and the Arizona National Guard, a performance by the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Team, and music by The Temptations Review and country artist Michael Peterson.

www.legion.org/national/ divisions/convention

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## Colombia free-trade agreement



### **SUPPORT**

### Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen,

■ Ros-Lehtinen is the ranking member on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

From national security to global competitiveness, Congress' treatment of the Colombia Free Trade Agreement will test U.S. integrity and commitment to enhancing democratic values throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Once on the verge of being a failed narco-state, Colombia, under the leadership of President Alvaro Uribe, has made an impressive effort to shut down once-dominant paramilitaries and narco-guerrillas. Amid a growing tide of authoritarian supremacy in the

region, Uribe has courageously aligned Colombia with the United States and committed his country to the principles of a secure, more democratic society. A free-trade agreement would be the ideal next step in Colombia's march toward establishing itself as a foothold for human rights and economic development in the region.

Despite the importance of the Colombia FTA, Congress appears positioned to sink it, citing reports of labor-rights issues and ongoing violence in the country. If we truly want to confront these transgressions, our aim should not be to punish Colombia for its accomplishments, but rather to reinforce them.

Under the Andean Trade Preference Act, drugproducing or transit countries such as Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru already enjoy significant special-duty treatments on a multitude of exports to the United States. The Colombia FTA would make these preferences both mutual and permanent, benefiting U.S. companies, too.

If our purpose is to strengthen security and better the lives of U.S. and Colombian citizens, we must pass this free-trade agreement and bind our countries together in the pursuit of democratic ideals and sustainable prosperity in the region.



THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Supporters say the Colombia Free Trade

Agreement will bolster human rights and

economic development in the region.

Critics fear it will lead to the outsourcing

of more U.S. jobs and further erosion of

our nation's manufacturing industry.

### **OPPOSE**

## Rep. Phil Hare, D-III.

■ Hare serves on the House Committee on Education and Labor, and Veterans Affairs.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was right to assert Congress' constitutional authority over trade by waiving the ill-advised timetable for consideration of the U.S-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

The Colombia FTA would be bad for our eco-

nomic and national security, and undermine our commitment to human rights around the world.

Like the Peru Free Trade Agreement that preceded it, the Colombia proposal is based on the flawed NAFTA-CAFTA model that led to the

outsourcing of millions of high-paying U.S. jobs and virtually eliminated our nation's manufacturing industry.

This comes at a time when the United States is in recession. The economy lost 260,000 jobs alone in the first half of 2008, and the Trade Adjustment Assistance program – a safety net for displaced workers – remains essentially dysfunctional. Passage of the Colombia FTA would add insult to injury for U.S. workers.

The Colombia FTA is actually even worse than the Peru agreement, applying a failed trade model to a country that tolerates the systematic assassination of union organizers and collusion with paramilitary groups.

Thirty-nine trade unionists were murdered in Colombia in 2007, and this year they are being killed at a rate of more than one per week. Of the more than 2,500 murders in Colombia since 1986, only 68 cases – about 3 percent – have resulted in convictions. Too often, the paramilitary organizations that carry out these attacks have close ties to President Alvaro Uribe.

We should not consider the Colombia Free Trade Agreement until all of these concerns are adequately addressed.

### **CONTACT YOUR LEADERS**

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121
The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

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# COPS UNDER FIRE

## Among other challenges, America's police officers face a disturbing rise in aggression toward law enforcement.

### **BY SUE RUSSELL**

Homicide investigator David Taylor eased his Ford LTD down a dirt road somewhere in Florida's Ocala National Forest. It was July 7, 1990 – the middle of the rainy season. Fresh clouds were rolling in, and thunder crashed in the distance. Taylor knew he was about to become drenched.

He had a grim job to do, and he felt confident in his ability to get it done. Growing up in Upshur County, W.Va., riveted by "Hawaii Five-0" and "Gunsmoke," he'd hungered to be where he was at this moment: a cop working a possible murder. He'd gone from corrections officer to beat cop to homicide detective. He was living his dream.

The Florida sky filled with rain as Taylor pulled up to the crime scene. A newborn baby had apparently been burned to death. The rain-soaked ground had Taylor worried until he saw that a deputy had covered the tiny body with plastic. A good call. Without the plastic, Taylor said, "everything on the outside of the baby that was evidentiary in nature would have been washed down into the crevices of the earth."

The teenager who called in the crime, Louann Wagner, 17, was calm. She said she knew nothing about the baby other than her discovery of the body. But the case turned when Louann told local reporters the baby was a boy, and that he was already dead before someone lit the fire. "How could she know the baby was a boy?" Taylor recalls. "It was wrapped up all the way to the chin. How did she know it was dead prior to the fire? We had no way of knowing that. How did she know factual details that we didn't know?"

Confronted, Louann quickly confessed. After her stunned parents consented to a home search, the detectives discovered that the teenager had given birth on her bed, then flipped the mattress. "She'd wrapped the baby up, put it in the bag, stuffed it full of paper, walked down the road, then actually set the paper on fire," Taylor recalls. The teenager was tried as an adult and convicted of second-degree murder.

Seventeen years later, Taylor cites the Wagner case when teaching classes to law-enforcement personnel. David Taylor is one former cop among many who works in a growing support industry for police officers; about 60,000 are assaulted per year, and one is killed every 57 hours in the line of duty. Beyond physical safety, mental health is also risked by those who investigate, day in and day out, the unexpected horrors of crimes no one can explain.

Police officers are under siege in America, facing a dramatic rise in shootings and

# OLICE LINE DO NOT



### What would you do?

Scenario: When one man stabbed another in the face with scissors, part of a blade snapped off. In return, the victim bit his assailant, leaving a chunk of his flesh on the floor. Is there any such thing as a perfect crime?

David Taylor uses this case to illustrate the transfer-andexchange theory of evidence, which says the bad guy always leaves something behind at the crime scene and takes something else away. In this case, an X-ray revealed the broken-off scissor blade embedded inside the victim's face. And the victim left a bite wound in his assailant's chest. Later, the broken scissors were found in the suspect's home. With DNA testing, a bite would also have provided blood and bodily fluids that could be tested.

other attacks. In 2007, 69 officers died from gunshots. Altogether, 188 officers were killed last year, up from 145 in 2006.

Fifty-five percent of U.S. law-enforcement agencies have 10 officers or fewer, and many never see or work a homicide case. But they all have to be trained and prepared for such an event. Because police agencies face serious liability problems if they fail to train their officers properly, demand for outside training services is high.

Taylor, retired from law enforcement but now armed with a law degree, teaches for the Public Agency Training Council, a private police- and fireservice training firm. He also has his own online training company, the National Center for Public Safety Training. Outside training, he says, is essential for successful police work and therapeutic for those who face the sometimes-gruesome realities of the job.

"I don't want to say it's open season, but I don't think we're too far from it," Taylor says. "You always anticipate danger. You just don't anticipate every car you stop, someone's going to emerge with a gun." Taylor says he's never had to shoot anyone, but he's been threatened, hit, suckerpunched in the head, and shot at twice.

Brian Litz, a K-9 officer for the Ocala police, was killed in 2004 during a well-being check on a mentally unstable man. Litz had attended Taylor's homicide classes. "When Brian went up to the door to check on him," Taylor says, "the guy was in the middle of one of his delusions and cranked off a round through the window. Shot the deputy in the neck right above the vest. One of my best friends, Deputy Bob Campbell, risked his life to try to save him, but Litz was dead in seconds."

A cop's work is often a thankless task. Cases of police-officer misconduct, corruption or brutality represent a tiny percentage of the roughly 800,000 officers nationwide. When those issues arise, they make headlines, often drowning out public gratitude for the work they do.

"Sure, there'll be one or two (who) slip through the cracks," Taylor says. "Overall, law enforcement is a very caring organization of people. The vast majority of cops deeply care about what goes on in your backyard. They are married, have families, they're involved in the community. It's sad when a good cop goes bad, because the well is poisoned, and it takes a while to purge that from people's minds."

Taylor's homicide and death-investigation classes

are filled with detectives and uniformed officers who often face potentially life-threatening situations, make split-second decisions and handle horrific crime scenes. Taylor teaches them numerous unpleasant facts: time-of-death estimates, skin slippage, body leakage, recognizing a brass-knuckle imprint on a child's head.

The strains can be immense. Police officers have higher-than-average rates of alcoholism, drug use, domestic abuse, depression and suicide. Former cops such as Taylor have taken up that issue, too. One of them is the Rev. Robert E. Douglas, Jr., executive director of the National Police Suicide Foundation (NPSF), a former Baltimore police officer and longtime pastor to law enforcement. Discussing medical treatment, Douglas draws a parallel between police officers and combat troops.

"We're not taking care of our soldiers coming back from Iraq, and we're not taking care of our police officers," he says, pointing out that more officers take their own lives than die on the job. According to NPSF statistics, a police officer commits suicide about every 19 hours in the United States.

"I've been doing this 18 years now, and every time I give a lecture, at least one or two in the room are fantasizing about suicide," Douglas says. "They will leave me notes or call me in my room." They are officers with a story to tell, a nightmare to share, images they cannot shake – traumatized without knowing where to turn for treatment.

"We're the forgotten soldiers," Douglas says.
"These officers are wonderful men and women, but they are in some deep stuff, more than any average citizen can possibly comprehend."

The public, meanwhile, expects police officers to be invincible, and they try to live up to that expectation. "They sometimes have that mind set of no one else is going to understand what they're going through," Douglas says. "You've got to be police to understand."

Infidelity is a frequent manifestation of depression, he says, and it's common among police officers, who can be stubborn about seeking help. "These young men and women did not come into this profession with this kind of attitude or disposition, or anxiety," Douglas says. "It is something that we do as we train them. We turn them into warriors."

Although nearly 95 percent of the 1,300 officer suicides over the past three years were attributed to relationship issues, Douglas believes those



### What would you do?

Jase File

Scenario: Firefighters found a body charred beyond recognition inside a burning Chevy Malibu on a Florida farm. Taylor and his colleagues noted that the vehicle was in reverse and backed into a shed, part of which had collapsed. Yet the driver's foot was depressing the accelerator, and a dip in the ground beneath both back tires suggested they had been spinning fast. Only dental records could identify the victim as the homeowner. Should detectives have treated this case as a homicide, suicide or accident?

"Every death investigation should be treated as if it was a homicide, although evidence may soon take you down another path," Taylor says. Nothing indicated that the homeowner tried to exit the vehicle: the door was closed, he was upright in the driver's seat. But why hadn't he released the accelerator? "As in medicine, history helps with the current diagnosis. He had a prior heart condition and the autopsy showed that he was probably dead, or close to it, before the fire broke out." With no evidence of suicide or homicide, the death was ruled accidental.

issues are generally connected to job pressure. He supports family seminars as a tool to ease officer transition from work to home.

Douglas also estimates that about 20 percent of U.S. law-enforcement officers are suffering from PTSD. "The remaining 80 percent have cumulative career trauma stress, or CCTS," he says. "That's the everyday stresses: alarms going off, shoplifting, fighting, being jumped, whatever the case may be."

Such job conditions take a toll on recruitment and retention.

"People say, 'I don't want to do it,'" acknowledges retired Sgt. Jeffrey Church, a former police sergeant and U.S. Air Force Reserve officer who now owns and operates Diversity Recruiting Specialists. "They say, 'You get sued, you get beat up, you get shot, you get killed.' It might not be as dangerous as people think, but it is dangerous.

"Some people have that adventure gene where they're willing to take the risk," Church says. "Others don't. We're seeing more and more rifles and long guns, more and more disrespect for the police. (Criminals) know they're not going to be punished, and jail seems to be a revolving door, so we are seeing people who just aren't afraid of the police any more."

So desperate is the need for new blood that recruiters in California, Texas and Florida, for example, scout in one another's states. Police officers sometimes get referral fees for putting forward candidates, and new recruits sometimes get signing bonuses. Pay varies widely among locations.

Ultimately, recruitment and retention may hinge more on marketing than money. "South Dakota can't compete with the wages in San Jose, so they don't even try," he says. "What you sell there is a sense of family, clean air and cheap houses. There's a lot more to it than money."

Like service in the U.S. Armed Forces, domestic law enforcement is a duty only a few are capable of fulfilling – often with great sacrifice – to protect others. Today, as more police officers are falling in the line of duty, the question arises: who will protect the protectors? Former cops such as David Taylor, Robert E. Douglas Jr., and Jeffrey Church are doing what they can to help answer that question.

Sue Russell is a freelance writer living in California.



### What would you do?

Scenario: The 1978 death of Sharon Reeves, wife of Jack Reeves of Arlington, Texas, was ruled a suicide. Investigators and the medical examiner's office determined that she ended her own life with a 20-gauge shotgun, most likely pulling the trigger with her toes. An injury between her toes supported the theory. Reeves' second wife also died, drowning in three feet of water at Lake Whitney. Her death raised suspicions. but she was cremated. The disappearance of Reeves' third wife, Emelita, a mail-order bride from the Philippines, led officers to reopen the investigation of Sharon Reeves' death. What should the original investigators have done differently?

Taylor uses this famous case to show the pitfalls in determining suicides. There are several key elements to consider, including motive and whether the weapon or instrument that killed the person is at the scene. (It should be, but its absence doesn't rule out suicide, since family members sometimes clean up such scenes out of shame or embarrassment.) But was it physically possible for Sharon's injuries to have been selfinflicted? When her body was exhumed, the acute, downward angle of the shot's entry was judged too steep to be the result of a self-inflicted wound.





# The Fighting 69th

### Guardsman chronicles the kind of transformation only combat can provide.

### BY MATHEW B. TULLY

n the eve of Sept. 11, 2001, New York City's famous National Guard regiment, the Fighting 69th Infantry, was not fit for duty. Most of its soldiers were immigrant kids with no military experience, and no intention of serving any longer than it took to get a paycheck or college credit. Once an all-Irish outfit, the 69th was now a mix of Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Colombians, African Americans, Russians, Poles, Koreans, Chinese and, still, a few Irish soldiers. Their uniforms were incomplete, and their equipment was downright derelict. From an armory in a part of New York where drug peddlers and prostitutes often engaged in their trades, the soldiers hurried to formation - one day removed from the terrorist attacks that would turn America's future on a dime. The thought of deploying such a unit was laughable. But that's exactly what happened.

Sean Flynn, himself a member of the 69th, memorably chronicles in "The Fighting 69th" what

happened next: the transformation of a motley band of amateur soldiers into battle-hardened troops patrolling one of the most lethal quarters in Baghdad: the notorious Airport Road, a blood-soaked strand that grabbed headlines and became a bellwether for progress in post-invasion Iraq. At home on the concrete and asphalt, like no other unit in the U.S. Army, Gotham's Fighting 69th brought its own rough justice to this lawless precinct of the war by using street-fighting tactics they grew up with.

This book is more than a story about the impact of terrorism or the war in Iraq. It is the story of how regular citizens come to grips with challenges far starker than what they been prepared for. Flynn's dark humor, empathy and candor make for a fresh look at who our soldiers are, and what they do when faced with their toughest challenges.

The author served as a company commander with the Fighting 69th, from Ground Zero through



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Please see brief summary of full Prescribing Information on reverse.

SPIRIVA does not replace fast-acting inhalers for sudden symptoms. Do not swallow the SPIRIVA capsule. The most common side effect of SPIRIVA is dry mouth. Others include constipation and problems passing urine. Tell your doctor about your medicines, including eye drops, and illnesses like glaucoma, urinary and prostate problems. These may worsen with SPIRIVA. If you have vision changes, eye pain, your breathing suddenly worsens, you get hives, or your throat or tongue swells, stop taking SPIRIVA and contact your doctor. For more information: 1.877.SPIRIVA or SPIRIVA.COM





### Spiriva® HandiHaler® (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder)

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information

FOR ORAL INHALATION ONLY

DO NOT SWALLOW SPIRIVA CAPSULES

### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

SPIRIVA HandiHaler (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) is indicated for the long-term, once-daily, maintenance treatment of bronchospasm associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

SPIRIVA Handi Haler (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to atropine or its derivatives, including ipratropium, or to any component of this product.

### WARNINGS

SPIRIVA HandiHaler (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) is intended as a once-daily maintenance treatment for COPD and is not indicated for the initial treatment of acute episodes of bronchospasm, i.e., rescue therapy.

Immediate hypersensitivity reactions, including angioedema, may occur after administration of SPIRIVA. If such a reaction occurs, therapy with SPIRIVA should be stopped at once and alternative treatments should be considered.

Inhaled medicines, including SPIRIVA, may cause paradoxical bronchospasm. If this occurs, treatment with SPIRIVA should be stopped and other treatments considered.

### PRECAUTIONS

As an anticholinergic drug, SPIRIVA (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) may potentially worsen symptoms and signs associated with narrow-angle glaucoma, prostatic hyperplasia or bladder-neck obstruction and should be used with caution in patients with any of these conditions.

As a predominantly renally excreted drug, patients with moderate to severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance of ≤50 mL/min) treated with SPIRIVA should be monitored closely (see CLINI-CAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations, Renally-impaired Patients). Information for Patients

Information for Patients it is important for patients to understand how to correctly administer SPIRIVA capsules using the HandiHaler inhalation device (see Patient's Instructions for Use). SPIRIVA capsules should only be administered via the HandiHaler device and the HandiHaler device should not be used for administering other medications. The contents of SPIRIVA capsules are for oral inhalation only and must not be swallowed.

Capsules should always be stored in sealed blisters. Remove only one capsule immediately before use, or its effectiveness may be reduced. Additional capsules that are exposed to air (i.e., not intended for immediate use) should be discarded.

Eye pain or discomfort, blurred vision, visual halos or colored images in association with red eyes from conjunctival congestion and corneal edema may be signs of acute narrow-angle glaucoma. Should any of these signs and symptoms develop, consult a physician immediately. Miotic eye drops alone are not considered to be effective treatment.

Care must be taken not to allow the powder to enter into the eyes as this may cause blurring of vision and pupil dilation.

SPIRIVA Handi-Haler is a once-daily maintenance bronchodilator and should not be used for immediate relief of breathing problems, i.e., as a rescue medication

Drug Interactions
SPIRIVA has been used concomitantly with other drugs commonly used in COPD without increases in adverse drug reactions. These include short-acting and long-acting sympathomimetic (beta-agonists) bronchodilators, methylxanthines, and oral and inhaled steroids. However, the co-administration of SPIRIVA with other anticholinergic-containing drugs (e.g., ipratropium) has not been studied and is therefore not recommended.

### **Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions**

None known.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

No evidence of tumorigenicity was observed in a 104-week inhalation study in rats at tiotropium doses up to 0.059 mg/kg/day, in an 83-week inhalation study in female mice at doses up to 0.145 mg/kg/day, and in a 101-week inhalation study in male mice at doses up to 0.002 mg/kg/day. These doses correspond to 25, 35, and 0.5 times the Recommended Human Daily Dose (RHDD) on a mg/m² basis, respectively. These dose multiples may be over-estimated due to difficulties in measuring deposited doses in animal inhalation studies.

due to difficulties in measuring deposited doses in animal inhalation studies. Tiotropium bromide demonstrated no evidence of mutagenicity or clastogenicity in the following assays: the bacterial gene mutation assay, the V79 Chinese hamster cell mutagenesis assay, the chromosomal aberration assays in human lymphocytes in vitro and mouse micronucleus formation in vivo, and the unscheduled DNA synthesis in primary rat hepatocytes in vitro assay. In rats, decreases in the number of corpora lutea and the percentage of implants were noted at inhalation tiotropium doses of 0.078 mg/kg/day or greater (approximately 35 times the RHDD on a mg/m² basis). No such effects were observed at 0.009 mg/kg/day (approximately 4 times than the RHDD on a mg/m² basis). The fertility index, however, was not affected at inhalation doses up to 1.689 mg/kg/day (approximately 760 times the RHDD on a mg/m² basis). These dose multiples may be over-estimated due to difficulties in measuring deposited doses in animal inhalation studies. ed doses in animal inhalation studies.

**Pregnancy** *Pregnancy Category C.* 

Pregnancy Category C.

No evidence of structural alterations was observed in rats and rabbits at inhalation tiotropium doses of up to 1.471 and 0.007 mg/kg/day, respectively. These doses correspond to approximately 660 and 6 times the recommended human daily dose (RHDD) on a mg/m² basis. However, in rats, fetal resorption, litter loss, decreases in the number of live pups at birth and the mean pup weights, and a delay in pup sexual maturation were observed at inhalation tiotropium doses of ≥0.078 mg/kg (approximately 35 times the RHDD on a mg/m² basis). In rabbits, an increase in post-implantation loss was observed at an inhalation dose of 0.4 mg/kg/day (approximately 360 times the RHDD on a mg/m² basis). Such effects were not observed at inhalation doses of 0.009 and up to 0.088 mg/kg/day in rats and rabbits, respectively. These doses correspond to approximately 4 and 80 times the RHDD on a mg/m² basis, respectively. These dose multiples may be over-estimated due to difficulties in measuring deposited doses in animal inhalation studies.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. SPIRIVA should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Use in Labor and Delivery
The safety and effectiveness of SPIRIVA has not been studied during labor and delivery.

Nursing Mothers
Clinical data from nursing women exposed to tiotropium are not available. Based on lactating rodent studies, tiotropium is excreted into breast milk. It is not known whether tiotropium is excreted in human milk, but because many drugs are excreted in human milk and given these enfidings in rats, caution should be exercised if SPIRIVA is administered to a nursing woman.

SPIRIVA HandiHaler is approved for use in the maintenance treatment of bronchospasm associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, including chronic bronchitis and emphysema. This disease does not normally occur in children. The safety and effectiveness of SPIRIVA in pediatric patients have not been established.

### Geriatric Use

of the total number of patients who received SPIRIVA in the 1-year clinical trials, 426 were <65 years, 375 were 65–74 years and 105 were ≥75 years of age. Within each age subgroup,

there were no differences between the proportion of patients with adverse events in the there were no differences between the proportion of patients with adverse events in the SPIRIVA (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) and the comparator groups for most events. Dry mouth increased with age in the SPIRIVA group (differences from placebo were 9.0%, 17.1%, and 16.2% in the aforementioned age subgroups). A higher frequency of constipation and urnary tract infections with increasing age was observed in the SPIRIVA group in the placebo-controlled studies. The differences from placebo for constipation were 0%, 1.8%, and 7.8% for each of the age groups. The differences from placebo for urinary tract infections were -0.6%, 4.6% and 4.5%. No overall differences in effectiveness were observed among these groups. Based on available data, no adjustment of SPIRIVA dosage in geriatric patients is warranted.

### ADVERSE REACTIONS

Of the 2,663 patients in the four 1-year and two 6-month controlled clinical trials, 1,308 were treated with SPIRIVA at the recommended dose of 18 mcg once a day. Patients with narrow angle glaucoma, or symptomatic prostatic hypertrophy or bladder outlet obstruction were excluded from these trials.

The most commonly reported adverse drug reaction was dry mouth. Dry mouth was usually mild and often resolved during continued treatment. Other reactions reported in individual patients and consistent with possible anticholinergic effects included constipation, increased heart rate, blurred vision, glaucoma, urinary difficulty, and urinary retention.

vision, glaco-ma, unlay similarly retained. Four multicenter, 1-year, controlled studies evaluated SPIRIVA in patients with COPD. Table 1 shows all adverse events that occurred with a frequency of ≥3% in the SPIRIVA group in the 1-year placebo-controlled trials where the rates in the SPIRIVA group exceeded placebo by ≥1%. The frequency of corresponding events in the ipratropium-controlled trials is included for comparison.

Table 1 Adverse Experience Incidence (% Patients) in One-Year-COPD Clinical Trials

Body System (Event)	Placebo-Co SPIRIVA [n = 550]	ontrolled Trials Placebo [n = 371]	Ipratropium- SPIRIVA [n = 356]	Controlled Trials Ipratropium [n = 179]
Body as a Whole				
Accidents	13	11	5	8
Chest Pain (non-specific)	7	5	5	2
Edema, Dependent	5	4	3	5
Gastrointestinal System Dis	sorders			
Abdominal Pain	5	3	6	6
Constipation	4	2	1	1
Dry Mouth	16	3	12	6
Dyspepsia	6	5	1	1
Vomiting	4	2	1	2
Musculoskeletal System				
Myalgia	4	3	4	3
Resistance Mechanism Dis	orders			
Infection	4	3	1	3
Moniliasis	4	2	3	2
Respiratory System (upper)				
Epistaxis	4	2	1	1
Pharyngitis	9	7	7	3
Rhinitis	6	5	3	2
Sinusitis	11	9	3	2
Upper Respiratory				
Tract Infection	41	37	43	35
Skin and Appendage Disord	ders			
Rash	4	2	2	2
Urinary System				
Urinary Tract Infection	7	5	4	2

Arthritis, coughing, and influenza-like symptoms occurred at a rate of  $\ge 3\%$  in the SPIRIVA treatment group, but were <1% in excess of the placebo group.

treatment group, but were <1% in excess of the placebo group.

Other events that occurred in the SPIRIVA group at a frequency of 1–3% in the placebo-controlled trials where the rates exceeded that in the placebo group include: Body as a Whole: allergic reaction, leg pain; Central and Peripheral Nervous System: dysphonia, paresthesia; Gastrointestinal System Disorders: gastrointestinal disorder not otherwise specified (NOS), gastroesophageal reflux, stomatitis (including ulcerative stomatitis); Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders: hypercholesterolemia, hyperglycemia; Musculoskeletal System Disorders: skeletal pain; Cardiac Events: angina pectoris (including aggravated angina pectoris); Psychiatric Disorder: depression; Infections: herpes zoster; Respiratory System Disorder (Upper): larny gitis; Vision Disorder: cataract. In addition, among the adverse events observed in the clinical trials with an incidence of <1% were atrial fibrillation, supraventricular tachycardia, angioedema, and urinary retention. ma, and urinary retention.

In the 1-year trials, the incidence of dry mouth, constipation, and urinary tract infection increased with age (see **PRECAUTIONS, Geriatric Use**).

Two multicenter, 6-month, controlled studies evaluated SPIRIVA in patients with COPD. The adverse events and the incidence rates were similar to those seen in the 1-year controlled trials. The following adverse reactions have been identified during worldwide post-approval use of SPIRIVA: application site irritation (glossitis, mouth ulceration, and pharyngolaryngeal pain), dizziness, dysphagia, epistaxis, hoarseness, intestinal obstruction including ileus paralytic, intraocular pressure increased, oral candidiasis, palpitations, pruritus, tachycardia, throat irritation, and urticaria.

### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

SPIRIVA capsules must not be swallowed as the intended effects on the lungs will not be obtained. The contents of the capsules are for oral inhalation only (see OVER-DOSAGE section).

The recommended dosage of SPIRIVA HandiHaler (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) is the inhalation of the contents of one SPIRIVA capsule, once-daily, with the HandiHaler inhalation device (see **Patient's Instructions for Use**).

No dosage adjustment is required for geriatric, hepatically-impaired, or renally-impaired patients. However, patients with moderate to severe renal impairment given SPIRIVA should be monitored closely (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and PRECAUTIONS).

### HOW SUPPLIED

The following packages are available:

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carton containing 30 SPIRIVA capsules (3 unit-dose blister cards) and 1 HandiHaler inhalation device (NDC 0597-0075-41)

carton containing 90 SPIRIVA capsules (9 unit-dose blister cards) and 1 HandiHaler inhalation device (NDC 0597-0075-47)

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the Iraq war. He is now on active duty with the National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division, based in Troy, N.Y.

At a recent book signing, Flynn spoke with *The American Legion Magazine* about "The Fighting 69th."

**Q:** What makes "The Fighting 69th" stand out from other war books and, specifically, other books about the Iraq war?

**A:** Most nonfiction books about the war can generally be divided into two categories: journalistic narratives, such as Evan Wright's "Generation Kill," and memoirs, such as Marcus Luttrell's "Lone Survivor." By writing "The Fighting 69th" in the third person, and focusing on the soldiers who most shaped the unit's experiences from Ground Zero to Baghdad, I have combined the objective storytelling strengths of a journalistic narrative with the detailed descriptions and grunt-level perspectives of a memoir. Not only did I interview soldiers who responded to the attacks on 9/11 and who were blown up in Iraq – I experienced both events myself. One reviewer described me as "the ultimate

embed," and I think that sums up my approach well.

**Q:** How did you select the main characters in the book?

**A:** I asked my fellow company commanders and other key staff officers and NCOs whom I worked with at both Ground Zero and Iraq which soldiers they thought had the most influence on the unit during the time frame, and which soldiers they thought would best represent the experience of the Fighting 69th as a whole. No single officer had more of an impact than Col. Geoff Slack. Not only was he the commander during the entire odyssey, but he had been forcing his brand of military leadership and values onto the unit since he arrived in 1991. Sgt. Jav Olmo was likewise an easy selection to represent the soldiers' perspective. A second-generation Hispanic soldier who grew up in a housing project, his background is typical of many in the modernday Fighting 69th. More importantly, Olmo has all the moxie, irreverence and humble pride of the soldiers who have comprised the 69th since its founding in 1851.

On Oct. 12, the Second
Regiment of Irish Volunteers
is made part of the New York
State Militia and designated
as the 69th Regiment.

During the Civil War, the 69th serves in every major eastern campaign, from Bull Run to Appomattox. Sent to France as part of the American Expeditionary Force, the 69th is redesignated the 165th Infantry Regiment and sees heavy combat with the 42nd "Rainbow" Division. AP Photo



### **NOTIFICATION: LEGISLATED PRESIDENTIAL COIN CHANGE**

# New federal law triggers free giveaway of last "In God We Trust" edge engraved dollar coins

Soon to be eliminated Presidential Dollar Coins with edge engraved "In God We Trust" Free to all those who order highly sought after Presidential Vault Tubes for just \$32

By SHAWN OYLER

UNIVERSAL MEDIA SYNDICATE

(UMS) - Starting at precisely 7:45 a.m. today, some of the last Presidential Coins minted with "In God We Trust" engraved on the edge by the U.S. Government are being handed out free to the public.

Readers are getting all six of the existing coins free with each complete set of six edge engraved vault tubes they claim.

So, who's to thank for this massive giveaway effort? Well, it's not the government. It's the privately held World Reserve Monetary Exchange.

The U.S. Government barely got started minting these Presidential coins with "In God We Trust" on the edge when federal law signed by the President required immediate preparation to remove "In God We Trust" from the edge.

The first six Presidents that were minted in limited quantity are now out of production and there will never be any more.

These were the first circulating United States coins with edge markings since the legendary St. Gaudens Double Eagle and with the new law, they are likely to be worth even more than the three dollars *The Official Red Book: A Guide to United States Coins* already says each coin is worth.

And we'll even give you the direct Hotline to call so you can be among the first to get yours free right now.

Almost immediately after this bill became law, coins with "In God We Trust" began being snatched up by those in the know. Now these golden Presidential Dollars are harder to find than ever.

"It's a miracle we even



■ GOING, GOING, GONE: You are looking at the last of the edge engraved "In God We Trust" Golden Presidential dollar coins ever minted because the new federal law prohibits them from ever being minted again. But now all those who beat the 7-day deadline and claim the set of six Presidential Vault Tubes will get the first six Presidential Dollar coins and the silver vault box free. Beat the Order Deadline by calling the Claim Line at 1-800-503-8147.

have these coins," said Robert Castaldo, Executive Director of the World Reserve Monetary Exchange, "it took the full power and resources of this privately held organization to secure this hoard, and now we're handing them over to all who cover the cost of the valuable crystal-clear Vault Tubes."

People everywhere will be trying to get their hands on the last of these magnificent stacks of coins that still have "In God We Trust" on the edge. But only those who get in before the 7-day deadline are being handed one of the remaining brand new never-circulated Presidential Dollar Coins free with every single \$32 sealed yault tube.

The World Reserve is cop-

ing with the explosion of calls. So, don't give up calling if you don't get through the first time. Keep trying.

"We really jumped through hoops to set up special Hotlines in three Regional Distribution Zones in an effort to maintain order across the country. We feared the flood of calls could bring us to our knees but we are now equipped to handle everyone who is trying to get through to get the last of our vault tubes," said Castaldo.

All this is happening because the World Reserve has revealed it will release the last of its secretly located hoard of \$20 million worth of never-circulated Presidential Coins in sealed vault tubes in an effort to prevent them from ever being introduced into

commerce. It's the best way to preserve their collector value as never-circulated coins.

"This is what everyone wants but so few will actually have. So many will be left out in the cold or with ordinary circulated coins if they can even find them in their bank change. That's why we are so widely advertising our plans to give away some of the soon to be eliminated never-circulated Presidential Coins with "In God We Trust" on the edge free," said Castaldo.

Those who do beat the order deadline will get one of the last Presidential Dollar Coins that still have "In God We Trust" on the edge free so they can handle it, show it off and still keep the valuable vault tube sealed and per-

fectly intact.

The U.S. Government is required to mint each President with a single Presidential \$1 Coin, with a different President appearing about every ninety days. That's why everyone is still trying to get the last of these Presidential dollar coins now that minting has been shut off.

Although Federal law requires "In God We Trust" to be removed from the edge of the coin, there will still be a Golden Presidential Dollar minted for every U.S. President.

"To honor each President there will also be forty sealed vault tubes in all, each containing twelve nevercirculated Presidential Coins. That's 480 coins. But with the forty free coins everybody is getting, it becomes a spectacular collection of 520 nevercirculated coins in all, loaded into two separate heavy vault boxes. Only those lucky enough to get in on this now can be among the first to be automatically taken care of with all of the new Presidential Program Dollars to ever be minted over the ten years," explained Castaldo.

The Presidential Dollars are already hard to find because local banks don't have them all and collectors are snatching them up. Banks will not honor requests for the free coins. And banks will never have these crystal-clear sealed vault tubes of the never-circulated coins that show off the rarely seen edge markings. Claims for these free coins which are in never-circulated condition are only being honored by the World Reserve for the next seven days and only for those who beat the deadline for the sealed vault tubes.

"Just look at that stack of coins. When Americans get their hands on those, they are really going to do a double take," Castaldo said.

So find your zone on the map below and make your claim for these special historic "In God We Trust" engraved edge Presidential Dollars before they're gone forever.

On the worldwide web: www.inGodwetrustcoins.com



■ JACKPOT: These two massive vault boxes contain the sealed vault tubes for the complete collection of forty Presidential Dollars, 480 coins in all. Values fluctuate, but just think if you had saved 2 silver vault boxes like the ones shown above of uncirculated Eisenhower Dollars from 1974. They would now have an astonishing increase in value of 500% according to the 62nd edition of *The Official Red Book*. It's a real steal at just \$32 each for these crystal-clear sealed vault tubes that show off the rarely seen edge markings and protect the coin's never-circulated value.

How to get free Presidential Coins

Every reader of this magazine who beats the 7-day deadline will get one of the last edge engraved "In God We Trust" never-circulated Presidential Dollar Coins free with each sealed vault tube for just thirty-two dollars and shipping. Supply of the last "In God We Trust" edged coins are uncertain because

new federal law prohibits them from ever being minted again. So, once they're gone, they're gone. In an effort to maintain an orderly distribution of the World Reserve's remaining private hoard of coins, claim lines have been established in three Regional Distribution Zones.



1 Find the Regional Distribution Zone you live in on the map below

CLAIM CODE: PD3112



WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE

2 Call the Claim Line set up in your Distribution Zone for the next 7 days only

If you live in Zone (2) Call: 1-800-789-3185 Lines open 8:15 AM - 9:15 PM

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THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY. THE INCREASE IN COLLECTIBLE VALUE OF CERTAIN PRIOR ISSUES OF U.S. COINS AND CURRENCY DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT CURRENT ISSUES WILL ALSO INCREASE IN VALUE. OH RESIDENTS PLEASE ADD SIX PERCENT SALES TAX AND SORRY NO SHIPMENTS TO VT AND MA RESIDENTS. ALL TRANSACTIONS LESS SHIPPING ARE BACKED BY THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE WITH A LIMITED 90 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE OF THE PURCHASE PRICE UP TO \$10,000.00.

**O:** What fuels your interest in writing? **A:** I had relatives who served with the 69th Infantry in the Civil War, World War I and World War II. When I wanted to continue my service in the reserve component, choosing the 69th seemed the obvious course of action. My experience as a Guardsman in the days following Sept. 11 ultimately led me to return full-ime to the National Guard. But I have never lost an appreciation for a good story, and I have never come across a better story than the story of the modern-day Fighting 69th.

**Q:** Does being on active duty limit your ability to candidly portray the war in Iraq?

A: Not in my case. I wrote the book with the consent and support of the 69th Infantry Regiment and the 42nd Infantry Division. More importantly, I consulted with several kev officers and NCOs from the 69th at every juncture of the writing process. All of them, regardless of rank, were very candid about the unit's struggles and experiences. Had they not been so frank, the book would not have been possible.

In writing, however, I did make every effort to follow the Department of Defense principles for the release of information -SAPP, or security, accuracy, policy and propriety. One colonel who reviewed the draft manuscript commented that I had probably gotten a little chalk dust on my toes but hadn't stepped over the line.

**Q:** What has happened to the

various characters in your book since their return from Iraa?

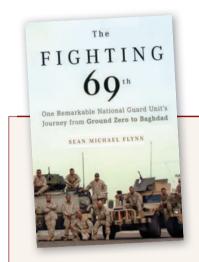
**A:** Not every character in the book survives. But I will note that before Sept. 11, the Fighting 69th and its soldiers were often the butt of jokes among senior Army leaders in the State of New York. Since 9/11 and Iraq, however, the Fighting 69th is now considered the top combat-arms unit in the state, and many of its soldiers and the unit's supporters have risen to the highest levels in units all over the state. In addition, scores of 69th

> veterans are headed back to war this time to Afghanistan, where they are rounding out other combat units.

**O:** What is next for you?

**A:** After spending a considerable amount of time researching and writing this book, I hope to spend time with my family before the next deployment. Writing "The Fighting 69th" was both emotionally draining and therapeutic at the same time. But in the short term, my focus will be on the present. That said, I'm always in the market for a good story and would love the opportunity to keep the spotlight on our citizen-soldiers. 🦃

Mathew B. Tully is a member of The American Legion and a major in the New York Army National Guard. He served in Tikrit and Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Currently, he writes a weekly "ask-the-lawyer" column for Military Times. mtully@ tullylegal.com



### **Trial by fire**

In "The Fighting 69th," author Sean Michael Flynn – a company commander during the unit's service from Sept. 11, 2001, to Operation Iraqi Freedom – tells the story of how the war on terrorism transformed an underfunded and undermanned New York Army National Guard regiment into the top combatarms unit in the state.

The 69th Regiment serves with the 27th Division in the Pacific during World War II, landing at Makin Island, Saipan and Okinawa.



From its armory in Manhattan, the 69 Manhattan, the 69th responds to the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11.



**8** Deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 69th patrols Route Irish, the road linking the Green Zone to Baghdad International Airport.

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# A BILL To provide Federal Government aid for the readjustment in civilian life of returning World War II veterans. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, 3 That this Act may be cited as the "Servicemen's Aid Act of 1944". 222222222222 presentent

Young veterans from across America converged on the steps of the U.S. Capitol Building on April 29 to voice support for a new and improved GI Bill. They spoke about how difficult it is for veterans to earn college degrees these days. The benefits were failing to cover the cost of tuition. In some cities, the payments for veterans of the reserves failed to cover the cost of getting to and from campus.

Several members of Congress joined these outspoken individuals and stressed the need for a "21st-century GI Bill" that would provide benefits worthy of our veterans and offer the same opportunities afforded to those who fought in World War II. After months of political haggling, Congress finally passed a new and better GI Bill.

### BY PHILIP M. CALLAGHAN

ere's the problem: We send our young men and women off to war in distant lands, testing their strength, commitment and courage under

fire – sometimes for three or more tours of combat duty. Then we bring them home, thank them for their service, turn them out to the civilian world and watch them struggle to succeed.

As troops, they are revered for defending our nation against terror. As veterans, they slip from our sight as they pursue college degrees. The GI Bill of recent years was a far cry from the original, having gradually lost value while the cost of higher education soared. The American Legion worked with Congress for more than three years to deliver a meaningful veterans education benefit, one that truly meet the needs of our 21st-century veterans.

On June 26, Congress finally fixed a problem that has persisted for half a century: little by little, our veterans have been losing their college education benefits. By a vote of 92-6, the Senate approved the "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act," which cleared the House by a 268-155 vote. Four days later, President Bush signed the bill into law.

"We applaud Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi," American Legion National Commander Marty Conatser said after Congress passed the measure. "Thanks in large part to her committed leadership, this momentous piece of legislation will resonate as a landmark in American history."

Starting in August 2009, veterans who served in the military for at least three years will qualify for full tuition payments at any in-state

## 1944 91 Bil

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 was crafted by The American Legion, led by Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery. He wrote the original draft for a bill that was introduced in Congress on Jan. 10, 1944. Deadlocked in a House committee vote, the GI Bill almost died. To break the tie, the Legion tracked down Rep. John Gibson of Georgia, drove him through a rainstorm, and flew him to Washington just in time to cast his "yes" vote on June 10, 1944, as the Normandy invasion raged across the Atlantic. Twelve days later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill into law.

### The Incredible Shrinking GI Bill

Seven senators in the U.S. Congress got full rides to universities and law schools, using World War II veterans educational benefits. If they tried the same thing with today's shrunken payments, they'd be out of money after a few weeks. Skyrocketing costs haven't helped the situation; back in 1945, most universities charged less than \$500 for a year's tuition.

Senator	Educational Institution	Degree funded by the GI Bill	2006-2007 costs†	2006-2007 costs covered by Montgomery GI Bill
Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii)	University of Hawaii, 1952	Undergraduate Degree	\$14,456	\$6,000* (41.5%)
Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii)	University of Hawaii, 1950	Undergraduate Degree	\$14,456	\$6,000 (41.5%)
	GWU Law School, 1952	Juris Doctor Degree	\$48,460	\$6,000 (12.4%)
Frank R. Lautenberg (D-N.J.)	Columbia University, 1949	Undergraduate Degree	\$46,874	\$6,000 (12.8%)
Ted Stevens (R-Alaska)	UCLA, 1947	Undergraduate Degree	\$22,773	\$6,000 (26.3%)
	Harvard Law School, 1950	Juris Doctor Degree	\$54,066	\$6,000 (11.1%)
John Warner (R-Va.)	Washington & Lee, 1949	Undergraduate Degree	\$42,327	\$6,000 (14.2%)
	University of Virginia Law School, 1953	Juris Doctor Degree	\$44,800	\$6,000 (13.4%)
Jim Webb (D-Va.)	U.S. Naval Academy, 1968	Undergraduate Degree	Federally Funded	Federally Funded
	Georgetown Law School, 1975	Juris Doctor Degree	\$51,530	\$6,000 (11.6%)
Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.)	Univ. of Nebraska at Omaha, 1971	Undergraduate Degree	\$15,230	\$6,000 (39.4%)

† Costs are defined as tuition, fees, books room and board. \*According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the average annual Montgomery GI Bill payment in FY '07 was \$6,000. The maximum annual benefit under the current Montgomery GI Bill payment is \$9,675.

# If you suffer from

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- ☐ High Blood Pressure
- ☐ Arthritis
- ☐ Fibromyalgia
- ☐ Joint Pain

- ☐ Constipation
- ☐ Back Pain
- ☐ Diabetes □ Neuropathy
- ☐ Edema

- ☐ Stiff Muscles
- ☐ Poor Circulation
- ☐ Insomnia ☐ Sleep Apnea



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## What people are saying about the Exerciser 2000 Elite™

After using the Exerciser 2000 Elite<sup>TM</sup> twice a day for one week the swelling in my ankles went away. It has also helped my breathing, as I can get out and walk without having to stop and catch my breath! Thank you. —Shirley H., Florida

As a Chiropractor, I would like to say that the Exerciser 2000 Elite<sup>TM</sup> enables people to benefit themselves at home. It is a valuable asset in moving lymph fluid, oxygenating the blood, increasing immune system function, maintaining mobility in the spine, and additionally freeing up a spine that has become stiff and arthritic. —Garry Gorsuch, D.C.

The ad I saw almost sounded "too good to be true". With your no risk money back guarantee I figured I had nothing to lose so I purchased the machine... and boy, am I glad I did! I am 75 years old and suffer from sciatica, which makes my back and legs tighten up and causes numbness. I was taking 8-10 Aleve<sup>TM</sup> every day. After using the machine for only 4 minutes, I noticed my lower back loosening up. Since I have been using the machine I haven't taken any pain pills and have been pain free. My sciatica is not giving me problems anymore and my body stays loosened up. I have also had a snoring problem for quite some time, however, since using the machine my snoring has subsided. My wife is so excited! I cannot tell you how much this machine has turned my life around. —C. Cummings

After having a stroke, I could no longer exercise the way I used to. As a result, I developed edema. A friend of mine introduced me to the Exerciser 2000 Elite<sup>TM</sup>. I loved it and I purchased one for myself. After using the machine daily for a few weeks, my symptoms of edema were completely gone. I now use the machine twice a day for 16 minutes each time on speed 3. What a wonderful way to exercise.—Robert M.

I love using the Exerciser 2000 Elite<sup>TM</sup> after my morning workout. It is an excellent way to cool down and it helps to start my day off right.—Deanna C., Kansas

I have had constipation problems for over 25 years. Since I have been using the Exerciser 2000 Elite<sup>TM</sup> I have been regular every day and have begun to lose weight. This is truly a blessing and is so easy to use. —Jeannie

Retail Price: \$464.95

I am in my late 80's and have diabetes. The first thing I noticed when I started using my machine was that my feet were warm when I went to bed. They were always ice cold before. Because one of my problems is poor circulation, I use the machine three times a day for 10 minutes each; in the morning, late afternoon and just before bed. I almost forgot to mention that I have not been able to lift my arms above my head. Now I can do it. You think that's no big deal until you can't do it anymore. —Ralph K.

My husband and I have been into natural products all of our lives but nothing has ever affected us like the Exerciser 2000 Elite<sup>TM</sup>. My husband is 72 and delivers flowers. He carries 5 gallon buckets of water. Since using the machine, his back hasn't hurt him at all. My hips would hurt if I stood too long and I would get weak and have to sit down. Now I can walk and sit as long as I want. I don't take pain medication anymore. In the morning, when I get out of bed I'm not stiff anymore. At 65, wow, this is great! Thank you for offering such a great machine. We are going to tell everyone we know about it. -Cheryl J.

I had suffered with sleep apnea for many years and had been taking drugs for it. I was told I would have to use a breathing apparatus. In the meantime, I was introduced to the Exerciser 2000 Elite<sup>TM</sup> and decided to purchase one. Within two weeks, I was sleeping more deeply and restfully than ever before. —David B.

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'I was in the Army Reserve, stationed at a hospital in Kuwait for a year, helping injured soldiers. I'm actually in human resources, not a nurse, but they needed more help at that time. I came back, and I wanted to go back to school. So I tried to do the GI Bill and everything, and I found out I only got \$400 a month. I noticed it was only covering transportation money in New York City, so it was just not enough. My other expenses per semester are about \$2,000 tuition and \$350 for books.

My mother took me in, and as long as I stay in school, she pays rent for me.
Thankfully, I received a scholarship from the Veterans Education Fund, and that's how I'm staying in college right now. We need to change that bill to get full tuition, not just \$400 a month. We need full tuition for every veteran.'

public university in the country. Essentially, this increases annual GI Bill benefits from \$40,000 to a maximum of about \$90,000 – not just for active-duty troops, but also for reserve and National Guard members.

Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Texas, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee that determines VA spending, gave credit to The American Legion. "Passing this historic new GI Bill into law could not have happened without the dedicated efforts of The American Legion, and I want to thank them for their critical support throughout this process."

The new education package will cost about \$62 billion over the next decade. Veterans who serve 10 years or more will earn the option of transferability to spouses and children. Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., was an early supporter of such a provision, which he introduced in separate

legislation. "I always felt this was important," he said. "It gives the veteran the option of whether to use it for himself or allow his family to use it."

Was King surprised the bill passed so easily? "I actually was, but the stars were properly aligned and this bill took on a life of its own," he said. "It was a combination of a sense in Congress that this was overdue, and very active lobbying by veterans groups such as The American Legion."

Yes, Congress certainly feels good about doing right by our veterans and updating a sorely outdated GI Bill.

But the question remains: how did the situation get so bad, before it finally got fixed?

**Lessons from the Great War.** The first GI Bill was so great because "it eased the readjustment of 16 million men and

women," says University of California-Berkeley assistant professor of history Kathleen Frydl. "Veteran readjustment is a tricky proposition, and when it's mishandled, it not only can endanger the lives of veterans, it can actually endanger entire political systems."

That's what happened little more than a decade after World War I when Depression-starved veterans joined the "Bonus Army" and camped out in Washington, demanding cash payments for their services during wartime. The threat of military force drove them out.

"We have a shameful history of doing poorly by our veterans," says author Edward Humes, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. "Most of the Revolutionary War veterans were dead before their pensions, promised 40 years earlier, were finally dispersed." That pattern continued right up through World War II, when Humes says a "mixture of altruism and fear" broke the cycle. Some of our leaders began to wonder what might happen in the United States if our government neglected 16 million veterans from one of the greatest military forces ever assembled.

The American Legion wondered the same thing and testified before Congress that if it didn't do right by its returning war veterans, all hell could break loose. Colmery holed up in Room 570 of the Mayflower

## 7:1 return

In 2006 dollars, the federal government spent about \$51 billion to send about 8 million veterans to school. What was the return on that investment? \$260 billion. Average incomes and buying power for those college-educated GIs were greater. Those incomes generated another \$93 billion in taxes, for a gross profit of \$353 billion. Seven bucks earned for each buck spent. With the new GI Bill, who knows what the long-term benefits will be for the U.S. economy?

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'I was in the U.S. Air Force from 2001 to 2005, and deployed twice overseas. When I got out, I went to school at Columbia and I've been there for three years. I *knew attending a private* university was going to be a significant investment. I'm kind of surprised at the price tag, and how little the GI Bill actually defrays the cost of education. I'm in my third year with 22 credits left, and I have a debt of \$90,000. A lot of troops coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan need to have the educational opportunities that were afforded to the greatest generation and generations since then. I think it's *just the right thing to do.* And I think this country, now facing this economic situation, could definitely benefit from a targeted investment in education.' **AARON ALFSON** 

Hotel in Washington during the first week of January 1944. He wrote in longhand on the back of hotel stationery a document that would shift the course of U.S. history.

Around that time, Colmery told an audience in Topeka, Kan., that the re-assimilation of veterans "is the gravest social problem which confronts us. They can either make the country or break it, save democracy or scrap it, promote world order or World War III. The result depends on us, not them."

The legislative masterpiece was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 22, 1944. That same day, the Soviet Army began its great summer offensive against the Germans; five days later, Allied troops liberated the French city of Cherbourg as they pushed forward from the beaches at Normandy. The smell of victory was in the air. Veterans would be coming home soon. When he signed the bill, FDR said the measure gave "emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down."

The GIs were largely oblivious. They were too busy fighting to worry about legislative committees and bill markups. Dr. Suzanne Mettler, who teaches in Cornell University's department of government, says the GI Bill came as a complete surprise to most veterans. "I've interviewed many veterans from the World War II era, and I asked them, 'Did you feel you were owed the GI Bill?' And they would tell me, sometimes rather vehemently, 'No, we were not owed the GI Bill.'"

Mettler says most served their country out of desire and a sense of duty. "The GI Bill was something that was thought of as a gift from the nation to them."

Few at the time realized what a fantastic gift it was. The 1944 GI Bill, Humes says, "was an anomaly, and The American Legion knows this better than anyone, because it's part of why the organization was founded in the first place: the utterly shabby way in which veterans had been treated in every preceding conflict."

Humes says the Legion's vision of the GI Bill went beyond what FDR contemplated. "For instance, it revolutionized home-buying for everyone. There was that mixture of wanting to do right by the veterans, and not wanting to see a Bonus March – times 100 – come Armistice Day. So it was a unique chemistry that led to this remarkable legislation."

A Slow Erosion. It could be said that the golden age of college benefits for veterans ended on June 25, 1950, at about 4 a.m., Korean Standard Time. Soon after war broke out between on the Korean peninsula, U.S. forces took on the brunt of responsibility to drive communist forces back across the 38th Parallel. Veterans returned home to find their education benefits diminished by the Veterans Adjustment Act of 1952. The government no longer paid tuition directly to colleges and universities; instead, veterans got a flat monthly fee of about \$110. From that, they were expected to pay for all of their education.

GI Bill benefits were cancelled altogether in 1956. "The World War II GI Bill actually ran into a lot of implementation problems," Frydl says. "And Congress and Eisenhower resolved those problems, in large part, by making the Korean War GI Bill much less generous." In 1959, a report by the Bradley Commission determined that serving in the military should be "an obligation of citizenship, not a basis for government benefits." Apparently, the government saw no good reason, during a time of relative peace, to reward its former servicemembers.

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'From 2001 to 2004. I was stationed onboard the USS Enterprise as an engineering lab technician. *In all, I served in the Navy* for six years. I got out and talked with my mom and sister about where to study. and where I would have good opportunities. So I applied to Georgetown and got in, and studied culture and politics. The GI Bill helped me, but I definitely think it could be improved, especially with the *increasing rate of education* costs. So many things don't *get factored into the tuition:* transportation costs, room and board, the cost of books. It was a struggle. We need to understand the sacrifices that people in the *military are making when* they're overseas, and this is just one way we can repay them. It's important to keep our society ahead in the world, and the GI Bill is an excellent way to do that.' SARAH ORNDORFF Alexandria, Va., **Georgetown University** 



he other day, Sen. John Warner, R-Va., found something he'd been missing for about 20 years: his father's American Legion pin. Rummaging through the drawers of an antique bureau, he rediscovered the small but significant family heirloom. After World War I, the senator's father, also named John, joined American Legion Post 1 in Paris. "My father served in the trenches of France as a young doctor, and he was a very strong influence on my life," Warner says. "He told me when it was time to serve my country, that I should go. So I went into the Navy. All the kids on our block joined in December 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge. We were only 17 years old."

World War II ended and Warner returned home in 1946 to find his father terminally ill with cancer. "He was a patient for 18 months before he died," Warner says. "It really took all the money my mother and father had to care for him. I would not have had the funds, as a consequence of my family's financial status, to have gone to college. It's as simple as that."

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, championed by The American Legion, came to Warner's rescue. The GI Bill gave him a full ride to Washington and Lee University and another full ride to the University of Virginia Law School, where he graduated in 1953.

"I have to tell you, with a deep sense of humility, that I'm in this chair as a U.S. senator, finishing 30 years, because of strong parents and the GI Bill," Warner says. "So I feel a strong obligation to pay back today's generation of veterans with the same wonderful benefits that I received."

Warner knew The American Legion supported the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and he pushed hard to get it passed this year. "And next time I go to a Legion event," he says, "I'm going to wear my father's lapel pin."

- Philip M. Callaghan

By the time the Vietnam War escalated in the 1960s, flat rates for education payments were firmly in place. "The flat rates favored the 'Sun Belt' states, because community college costs were low," says Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., a Vietnam War veteran, author, and sponsor of S. 22, the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, introduced early this year to substantially improve benefits. "In the Northeast, the GI Bill didn't cover the costs. There was also a tendency to look at benefits through the eyes of the Pentagon, especially when the all-volunteer force started up, and retention issues became a larger concern."

As time went on, payments went down, and tuition went up. When the Montgomery GI Bill was passed in 1984, it had no provision for dealing with meteoric increases in higher education costs across the United States.

National Guard and reserve veterans have been hit especially hard by the widening gap between cost and benefit, receiving just \$400 a month.

Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, D-S.D., says the Defense Department

### Entry fees

When they're recruited, about 95 percent of servicemembers sign up for GI Bill benefits, which cost them \$1,200 each. When they leave the service. nearly 30 percent of veterans never use those benefits. While 36 months of educational benefits are provided (monthly stipends range from \$317 to \$1,101), veterans only use an average of 17 months' worth. While the U.S. government paid out \$2 billion in GI Bill benefits last year, it also earned \$230 million from veterans who paid their \$1,200 "entry fees" but never used their benefits.

has allowed National Guard and reserve benefits to erode from 40 to 29 percent of the active-duty rate. "There's certainly a balance that has to be acknowledged," Sandlin says. "But some DoD officials seem to think that so long as recruitment and retention goals are being met, those reserve benefits could go down to 9 percent, and that would be OK."

Over the past 20 years, the cost of a four-year education at a public institution has gone up by 278 percent. Pell grants and other federal assistance programs have provided some relief for the general student population; the GI Bill has failed to provide similar relief for veterans.

Mettler says people get angry when they discover that the current GI Bill falls short of the original. "They tell me, 'We owe as much to these young people today as we owed back then. My father's generation could go to Yale and get a stipend to boot," Humes says. "Right

now, what you're offering is a benefit that pales in comparison to what was given to the World War II generation of veterans."

Cost of War. Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., sits in his Capitol Hill office and ponders the GI Bill's place in society. "I don't know how we got here, but we're here," he said as the need for a new benefit began making headlines across the country and the question arose about how a better GI Bill might influence recruitment and retention. "Our focus is on fixing it. If you're trying to attract people to join the military, the GI Bill benefits are certainly part of the package. You've got to ramp it up for a wartime military. If we're going to spend an extra \$100 billion on this year's war supplement, a couple of billion dollars for a meaningful GI Bill should just be part of the cost of war."

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, puts it this way: "You can't retain people you haven't recruited."

I'm in the Marine Corps
Reserve and went to Iraq in
2003, spending time as a
machine-gunner with the
3rd Battalion of my reserve
unit out of Little Rock, Ark.
When I came back, I started
the GI Bill and it ran out last

year after
36 months of
benefits. I was
getting the
grand sum of
\$282 a month.
After I started
at Cal Poly, my
benefits were



up to \$430 a month. But now I don't get any more benefits, and I still have about three quarters left to go before graduating.

The benefits helped so I didn't have to work as much, but since I don't want to take out any loans, I was relying on benefits and working. And I was taking a full course load. So the GI Bill was somewhat helpful, but it only amounted to about half the cost of my monthly rent. And my tuition is roughly \$1,500 a quarter. If I wasn't a California resident, it would be about \$7,000.'

EVAN AANERUD San Luis Obispo, Calif., California Polytechnic State University



'I'm a Navy reservist attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 18. We were deployed to Fallujah, Iraq; I spent six months there. It was very scary at times, but we had a mission to complete and we worked diligently to accomplish that mission. When I returned, I went back to Boise State University. My tuition is roughly \$8,000 a year, and my GI Bill is \$440 a month. Because I'm a reservist, I don't qualify for the active-duty GI Bill. I don't think anyone is worth less than anyone else, and we risk our lives the same as active-duty people do. We're gone from our families, and fighting the war on terrorism just the same. Yet the benefits are not the same. The \$440 a month covers my rent, and that's pretty much it.' **ELIZABETH LAHNY** Boise, Idaho, **Boise State University** 

Recruiters have it hard enough, Webb says. "About 8 percent of their target age group has a propensity to serve in the Army or Marine Corps right now. So they're pounding the heck out of (that population) with enlistment bonuses, etc. The worst thing in recruiting is not making your goal, because it's a career-ender." Webb says expanding education benefits makes recruitment easier, and because the new GI Bill gives veterans 15 years to cash in, he doesn't think retention will be harmed.

In an April 29 letter to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Secretary of Defense Robert Gates wrote that "serious retention issues could arise if the benefit were expanded beyond the level sufficient to offset average monthly costs for a public four-year institution."

The Congressional Budget Office analyzed Webb's legislation in May and concluded it would cost taxpayers \$51.8 billion over the next 10 years. It also noted that "raising the educational benefits as proposed in S.22 would result in a 16-percent increase in recruits." CBO also estimated that DoD could offset retention losses by ratcheting up selective re-enlistment bonuses to \$25.000.

Dr. Michael Gambone, history professor at Kutztown University, knows something about how well veterans re-adjust. "I teach a lot of those kids. They come back, and there's some difficulty in adjusting to an academic environment." He believes school is one of the best ways for veterans to make the transition.

"When soldiers leave the military, they can disassemble weapons, and they understand basic tactics, but what they lack are skills that will make them relevant in the job market," he says.

### Changes

Currently, veterans get a maximum annual benefit of \$9,901 for tuition and housing. Under the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, veterans will receive a maximum amount of \$22,094. New benefit payments are based on the cost of the most expensive public college/university in a veteran's home state, plus regional averages for housing and living expenses. Henceforth, as tuition and cost of living increase, so will benefits. The new GI Bill can be applied to private schools as well, and benefits are good for 15 years after separation from service, rather than 10.

"(Higher education) gives them the type of civilian mission they can apply themselves to, and that's very important in allowing these people to re-assimilate."

Jerome Kohlberg, a World War II veteran and successful entrepreneur, started the Fund for Veterans Education with \$8 million of his own money. About 400 veterans have received scholarships. As for the retention argument fronted by DoD, "we don't buy that," says Matt Boulay, director of the fund. "People don't separate from service just to go to college. There are a host of reasons to separate. On the other hand, most people sign up in order to get their college paid for. That's what DoD sells in their recruiting slogans."

**Honoring Service.** American Legion National Commander Marty Conatser has a suggestion for critics who think a new GI Bill is too expensive. "Visit Walter Reed. War is expensive. The bulk of that cost is paid for by the men and women who wear the uniform. Benefits are just a small, small cost of war." He points out that back in 1944, even some veterans groups thought the GI Bill stood likely to break the Treasury.

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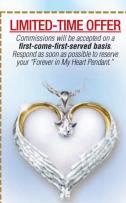
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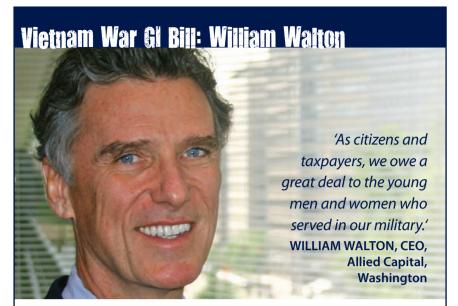
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'I served in the U.S. Army, joining in 2001. I was in the 3rd Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade, out of Fort Benning, Ga. I did a sevenmonth tour in Kosovo, then went to Iraq in January 2003. We stayed in Kuwait until war was declared, then hit the borderline and went straight to Baghdad.

The benefits I'm getting right now help me cover about half my costs. Another thing is, the GI Bill doesn't pay until after the first month of classes. Some schools don't give extensions, so I've got to pay out of my pocket until that first payment comes in. I get about \$550 a month, and that's not nearly enough. Per semester, I'm paying \$1,200 – plus books and gas.' LARRY SOTO Miami, Fla., Florida International University



hen William Walton was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, no one told him anything about his GI Bill benefits. "They didn't need to," he chuckles, "because we were a captive audience back then."

Today, Walton is CEO for investment corporation Allied Capital in Washington. He also serves as president of the National Symphony Orchestra's board of directors. He's closely followed the GI Bill issue in Congress this year and what it might mean for future veterans. He cares not just because the GI Bill helped him reach his career goals, but also because he's got a son in the Army who plans to use those educational benefits as well. "In general, members of the military aren't paid that much money, so they really don't have the ability to save for college or grad school," Walton says. "Having that tab picked up as part of the military service should be part of the bargain."

After serving in the Army for two years, the elder Walton went back to school at Indiana University, where his veterans benefits covered about two-thirds of his expenses. That support meant he could spend more time studying and less time working.

On campus, Walton remembers that veterans "tended to be extremely serious and dedicated students, and got an awful lot out of the college experience."

After graduating from IU, Walton eventually enrolled in graduate school. Once again, the GI Bill helped pave his road to success. Walton believes that road should now be crowded with veterans returning from combat duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. "As citizens and taxpayers, we owe a great deal to the young men and women who served in our military," Walton says. "They've made enormous sacrifices to protect and defend the country."

Walton hasn't forgotten how important the GI Bill was for him and his fellow veterans. "Looking back at the Vietnam era," he says, "to be a returning veteran was *not* to be welcomed with open arms. And to have the GI Bill there ... was not only a show of financial support, it showed some emotional support as well."

– Philip M. Callaghan

Instead, it created a world economic superpower. "The critics were wrong then," Conatser says. "And they are wrong now."

The war against terror is likely to continue for some time, if not indefinitely. More and more veterans will be coming home, looking for a chance at the same kind of prosperity their grandparents had. They expect benefits, not penalties. Rep. Harry Mitchell, D-Ariz., who introduced the companion bill to Webb's legislation in the House, says he talks "to veterans continually who are coming back, working two jobs, trying to go to school, have children. It's a real burden."

Rep. Chet Edward, D-Texas, says a new GI Bill "is a show of respect, and just as we focused last year on increasing funding for VA health care, this is a logical follow-up."

In 1968, Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and his brother, Tom, served together in Vietnam. They came back home and went to school at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Their GI Bill benefits helped, but they still worked part-time jobs. Hagel says a new GI Bill is "the smart and right thing to do for our nation to recognize the service of individuals

Family plan

The new GI Bill's transferability option allows veterans who have served for 10 years to assign their educational benefits to spouses or children. Transferred benefits only cover the cost of tuition, but families are free to "divvy up" the payments any way they choose, as long as they don't exceed the cost for 36 months of full-time college enrollment. For example, a veteran could complete a two-year degree program, then give a family member the remaining two years of educational benefits.

who've earned this benefit. This is not a welfare program."

In Mettler's mind, there's another level to the GI Bill argument: the implication for democracy, and the impact on civic engagement. "So here's a policy from the past, with a tremendous record of promoting more active citizenship, for people to have a greater voice in self-governance, and to participate in organizations that make communities healthy. We ought to be doing that for today."

Frydl, who is writing a book about the GI Bill, says we should remember the main legacy of the original GI Bill: the peaceful readjustment of veterans into society.

"That was a real challenge," Frydl says. "And we have no reason to think it's less of a challenge today. Servicemembers, and communities themselves, often encounter very serious problems.

We all really stand to suffer if veterans are not given a peaceable path back to civilian life."

Says Hagel: "Most people don't stop to recognize that we're asking about 1 percent of the American people to bear all the burden, make all the sacrifices, do all the fighting, do all of the dying, in defense of this country.

"We will break down that system if we don't do something, and I think educational benefits are one of those things that can help us. At a time when we're at a crisis point in our military, these young men and women, and their families, need to be reassured that something's going to be there for them later."

*Philip M. Callaghan is managing editor of* The American Legion Magazine.

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# MISUNDERSTOOL

Deputy commanding general at Guantanamo Bay tries to close the gap between public perception and military reality.

he subprime mortgage crisis has a death grip on almost everything that makes money in America as 2007 comes to a close. The dollar is down. Gas is up. Food is next. The major indexes are coiling into an old-fashioned election-year slump. And Greg Zanetti, a New Mexico financial adviser who's done pretty well for himself since the early '90s, has the Caribbean on his mind - this time without his wife.

Halt. This is not what it seems.

Last year a professional investment manager, this year Zanetti is the New Mexico Army National Guard brigadier general who serves as deputy commanding general of Joint Task Force GTMO at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The detention center there is a high-profile crucible for world criticism of America's global war on terrorism. It is a story, Zanetti explains, that likewise is not what it seems: "Guantanamo Bay is the most misunderstood mission in the military."

Army life had taken Zanetti many places since graduating from West Point in 1980: mortar school at Fort Benning, Ga.; field artillery school at Fort Sill, Okla.; German classes in Monterey, Calif.; and a four-year stint on the Czech border during the Cold War. The Army later helped Zanetti get a master's degree and, to repay the debt, he joined the New Mexico National Guard, eventually assuming two companylevel commands and two battalion-level commands. He was one of the first to send a National Guard unit to the Mexican border to curb illegal immigration as part of Operation Jump Start.

But nothing Zanetti has done in his career quite compares to his 2008 call-up to help lead the detention compound at the U.S. naval base known as "Gitmo." There, captured enemy combatants are held, interrogated, released, or held longer. This year -Zanetti's year – many are having their cases heard in court proceedings on base.

The general recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine* about that particular development and Guantanamo Bay's unique place on the world stage.

**Q:** Much is reported about detainee treatment at Guantanamo Bay, but little is said of the intelligence gathered there. Can you speak about that? **A:** I can to some degree. There are two levels of intelligence. There's tactical intelligence – and we don't get a lot of tactical intelligence at this point in the game. But strategic intelligence – we do get that, continuously. Someone in a detainee's family

piece of intelligence together with someone who's got something in Iraq or Afghanistan, and you begin to put the mosaic together.

**Q:** How does international diversity affect the mission?

**A:** We have detainees from dozens of countries. That's the hard part about this. If we scoop up an Iraqi in Iraq, then obviously he will stay in Iraq.

But what do you do with a detainee, who came from the horn of Africa, who you find in Afghanistan? Many times they will come to Guantanamo Bay because there isn't another place for them. Somalis are a good example. How do you take someone back to Somalia, when Somalia doesn't really exist anymore?

The same issue exists with the Uighurs (pronounced *wee-gers*). The Uighurs are terrorists-intraining from northwest China. The Uighars have nothing against the United States at all. Their battle is with the Chinese. But we pick them up in Afghanistan training to be terrorists. We bring them to Guantanamo Bay. We would just as soon release them, but if we release them back into China, they will likely get killed as soon as they get off the airplane. So human-rights groups say no, we can't return them there.

Meanwhile, you have to find that third country that's willing to take them. There are Uighur communities around the world that say they will take them. But the nation-states over those communities don't want them. What if these Uighurs bomb the Chinese embassy in Brussels, and they kill a bunch of nice Belgians in the process? No policymaker wants to take that risk. So, until you work something out, they stay at Guantanamo Bay.

**Q:** These are detainees with no other place to go. **A:** For some of them, that's absolutely true. For some of them, we are going to bring them to trial, either for 9/11 or for the *Cole* bombings, or events that occurred in Afghanistan or Iraq. It's an interesting mix. They don't fit into just one lane.

**Q:** *In camp, they might form altogether new cells?* **A:** They do. This is the thing we deal with every day. How do we manage the population inside the camps? One way is by moving detainees around, from one camp to another, breaking up cells. As soon as we break one cell up, another one will start to form. It's just routine.

**Q:** Do they form separate identities, or do they adopt al-Qaeda or maybe the Taliban as a parent group? **A:** Yes, yes and yes.

**Q:** Are the compliant groups sometimes compliant in order to find a way out?

A: If you comply with the camp rules, you can get more comfort items. You can get better conditions of detention. For example, we have a minimum-security camp, Camp 4. Envision "Hogan's Heroes." If you are compliant in Camp 5 or Camp 6 and obey the rules, you will be rewarded and moved to Camp 4. Soccer fields, basketball courts, all of those kinds of things. If you are noncompliant in Camp 4, you go right back to Camp 5 or 6.

**Q:** At its peak, the facility had 775 detainees. Now you are down to 275. What are the conditions upon which you release somebody, and where do they go?

A: Many of them are repatriated to their home countries. We actually have a number of success stories. For example, when we repatriate Saudis, they go back into a Saudi prison where they begin a rehabilitation process. The Saudis bring in members of more moderate Islamic clergy to start talking to them. They bring in family members and friends. They give the detainee a wife, and a house, and a car, and a job. If you have a house, a car, a job and a wife, you don't have time to blow people up. You are busy. There is very little recidivism with the Saudis. Yemen is trying to put together the same kind of program.

**Q:** What kind of recidivism is there overall? **A:** We have seen about 7 percent that we have picked up on the battlefield and then found again. That means 93 percent didn't go back. That's not a bad success story.

**Q:** But you do get repeat offenders.

**A:** Oh yeah. We had one guy who we released in December who was picked up again in February. He had all of 90 days of freedom. He's not back at Gitmo. He's being held in Iraq.

**Q:** Have any serious acts of terror been thwarted from inside Gitmo?

**A:** Absolutely. The intelligence group is very proud of what they have done.

**Q:** But those stories are not reported.

**A:** Because you can't disclose sources. If you disclose the source, then what?



'If you have a house, a car, a job and a wife, you don't have time to blow people up. You are busy.'



### 'They respect the fact that we are respecting their religion.'

**0:** Now, you are moving into administrative reviews and tribunals for many of these detainees.

A: I think we are at 12 or 14 right now. They want to get to 80.

**Q:** And they have been charged with ...

**A:** Everything from murder to terrorism to conspiracy. Just a host of charges.

It's interesting to see the detainees as they are charged. When you hear you are charged with terrorism, conspiracy or murder, you might expect to see some remorse. Oftentimes, instead, you see in their face, looking back and saying, "Those were the good old days," like they scored the winning touchdown in the high-school football game. It's their glory.

And we've had some detainees who've said, "I did more than this - you have not charged me with enough!"

Q: How are you handling all the media and attornevs coming for the tribunals and reviews? **A:** Tent city. The price tag to house that many people in the way they are used to - hotels, transportation, a courthouse - was going to be more than \$100 million. We are going to treat this as an expeditionary unit. A tenth of the cost. We set up tents on an old tarmac, and if you walk into one, you see four beds down one side of the tent and four beds down the other. That's your home. You get a little wire to hang up your suit.

Q: Why has Guantanamo Bay been more open to media visits than the typical wartime military installation?

A: They come down every week. We show them everything we can. Some come with a preconceived notion of what they are going to write. Others come with an open mind. The more we show, the better coverage we get. You tell them the truth and let them write what they want to write.

**Q:** Many in the media think you are hiding something somewhere.

A: Yeah, you hear it on the buses - "Oh, they're not showing us where they've got the shackles and the hunchback."

**Q:** *Some Americans think we ought to be more* aggressive in our interrogations of detainees. **A:** That's not American. We don't do that. We all know what happened at Abu Ghraib, and a lot of us took that pretty hard. Not on our watch. This is not going to occur. This is not what Americans do. Our soldiers, sailors, troopers, the commands – all understand this. Some claim we have gone way too fair. If you listen to talk radio, or to the far right, they say we're treating them way too well, and they are getting way too many privileges. You can't win.

**Q:** How hard is it to manage their spiritual needs? **A:** I had a reporter who came and asked why we are bending over backwards. Why are you giving them all these religious privileges? We don't even do this for Christians or Jews in the United States. You would never stop everything for Easter. We do this for the detainees because we found that the more they study the Koran, the more education they get. The more they read the book themselves, the more compliant they become. They respect the fact that we are respecting their religion.

**Q:** Can you explain the "joint" in Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay?

**A:** Think of it this way. The Coast Guard handles Guantanamo Bay. The Navy's got the blue water around Cuba. You've got the Marines manning the wire between us and Cuba. Inside the camps, you've got Army and Navy working together. Security of the camp is actually handled by the Puerto Rico National Guard. Inside the facility, the staff - Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force - are all represented. Of course, you've got a naval air station, which has some Air Force flavor to it. Then you add in what I jokingly call GIPS – guys in polo shirts: Homeland Security, FBI, the mapping agencies, all of these other civilian agencies that work with us. Our relationship is very good, maybe because we are all on this island, and it's just us. The rivalries break down. We're friends.

**Q:** But public perception, you say, is a bit skewed. **A:** It's the most misunderstood mission in the military. Within a few days of stepping off the plane at Naval Air Station Guantanamo Bay, you are immediately struck by paradox. You are in Cuba, but you don't see Cubans. The place looks like a desert, but you are surrounded by water. You have an enemy, in a time of war, trying to kill himself while we are trying to keep him alive. It just goes on and on from there. We just shrug our shoulders and say, "It's Gitmo."

- Jeff Stoffer





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# **Special Deliveries**

Through the Air Compassion for Veterans program, a former Army officer provides free transportation for people in need.

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

Army Staff Sgt. Michael Montange lay in a hospital bed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington last September, painfully recuperating from combat wounds sustained just days earlier near Baghdad. In three tours, he had been wounded three times. This latest blow, Army doctors told him, would require 14 months or more of recovery.

By Christmas Eve, Montange was in Chelsea, Mich., celebrating the holidays with family and friends. He hadn't been home in 10 years. He got there by the kindness of strangers, volunteers who fly wounded warriors or military families in need between hometowns and hospital beds. The program, Air Compassion for Veterans (ACV), is a

major spoke of Mercy Medical Airlift (MMA), which provides no-cost, medically related airtransport services to in-theater troops, veterans and families. A \$3 million grant from the California Community Foundation supports the program. The American Legion also supports MMA and, in 2001, the National Executive Committee adopted the program, encouraging Legion departments and posts to get behind it.

For families such as the Montanges, the program is a godsend. "We were prepared for the worst when Michael returned injured this last time," his mother, Nancy, said. "As severe as his wounds were, I don't think any of us realistically thought he would be able to come home by Christmas. And

ABOVE: In the early 1970s, Ed Boyer, the founder of Mercy Medical Airlift (MMA), kept track of passengers and pilots on 5-by-7 note cards. Today, computer programs help MMA staff to schedule more than 12,000 missions, flown by more than 7,500 volunteer pilots.

James V. Carroll

### **The Legion and Mercy Medical Airlift**

Recognizing that many veterans and their families can't afford air travel to specialized medical facilities, The American Legion's National Executive Committee adopted the Mercy Medical Airlift program in 2001.

The Legion's National Commission on Children and Youth is urged to inform post and department leaders about transportation available through MMA for children, families and veterans in need. The NEC also encourages its leadership to promote MMA programs in their communities.

In June 2007, The American Legion's Heroes to Hometowns program and MMA's Air Compassion for Veterans program signed a memorandum of understanding. They are cooperating to find appropriate transportation for U.S. veterans from operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom who need medical care or treatment.

Through cooperative efforts, the Legion and MMA hope to expand medical air transport resources for veterans throughout the United States, and increase awareness of available air transport for severely wounded OEF/OIF veterans.

**Q:** What kind of flying experience do you have?

**A:** I'm 78 years old, and I started flying when I was in my early 40s. I learned to fly right here at this airport. If I recall correctly, it took me 70 hours or so over a three-year period to get my license. I had a business to run, and I took lessons every opportunity I got, but it took a long time.

**Q:** How did you learn about Mercy Medical Airlift (MMA)?

**A:** I was aware of the program for quite some time before I got involved. As I learned more about it, I knew it was something I could do to help other people. So I started flying missions in 1998 or 1999. I enjoy flying, and I enjoy helping people get from point A to point B and back for needed medical attention. It's a win-win situation for me.

**Q:** What are the requirements to fly for MMA?

**A:** They require a pilot to have at least 250 hours as pilot in command, 25 hours pilot-incommand time in the type of aircraft to be flown, a current instrument rating, and access to an aircraft. They are very safety-conscious and choose their volunteer pilots very carefully.

**Q:** How many MMA missions have you flown?

**A:** I really don't keep count. I fly when I can. I have a business to run that takes a lot of my time, but I keep an eye on flight requests to see if any fit my schedule. And sometimes Mercy Medical will call me to see if I am available. I try to help out when I can.

**Q:** Describe some of the passengers you've transported.

**A:** I've flown infants as young as seven months old and elderly folks well into their 70s. And I've flown a lot of teenagers. The folks I fly have to be ambulatory. If they are minors, they have to have an adult accompany them. We also, on occasion, fly people for reasons other than medical if a need arises.

More than 7,500 pilots across the United States volunteer to fly needy patients to and from longdistance medical appointments at no charge. Ernie Hudson has logged more than 7,000 hours, flying his single-engine, low-wing Bonanza 836 out of Landmark Aviation in Norfolk, Va.

he probably wouldn't have, had it not been for Air Compassion for Veterans. Michael was in too much pain to come home by ground transportation, and air transportation would have been so terribly expensive. We are all so excited."

The program's clientele is diverse, but they all have three things in common: medical problems, military affiliation, and a need to travel far – too far for a road trip.

One MMA beneficiary was a 2-year-old boy, nearly beaten to death by his mother in 2006; his

Marine father was deployed in Iraq. ACV flew the boy from Texas to Florida, free of charge, so he could be with his grandparents.

"Our family cannot thank the folks enough at Mercy Medical Airlift and Air Compassion for Veterans," the boy's grandfather said. "The medical air ambulance flight didn't cost us a penny. We would never have been able to afford the cost of the flight. We were told it could have cost us as much as \$60,000. We thank God for our blessings."

MMA is the brainchild of Ed Boyer, a pilot and



Cheyenne is one of thousands of children transported by vlounteer pilots to and from medical appointments.

To volunteer your time and plane www.volunteerpilot.org
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To request services

Angel Flight: (800) 296-3797

MMA accepts requests from anyone directly involved in the need: doctors, nurses, patients, social workers, transportation coordinators, family members and others. Angel Flight is available to adult patients or children, and an escort, needing transport for medical evaluation, diagnosis or treatment. Patients must be ambulatory and require no in-flight medical care. Angel Flight will also fly passengers with compassion needs on a case-by-case basis. There must be a financial or compelling need for the flight, and the destination must be within 1,000 miles.

### Air Compassion for Veterans: (888) 662-6794, www.aircompassionforveterans.org

ACV accepts requests to provide medically related air-transport services to troops, veterans and families affected by military deployment in OEF or OIF.

### National Patient Travel Center help line: (800) 296-1217, www.patienttravel.org

The help line assists with coordination of commercial airline flights, location of lower air-ambulance services and/or medically assisted commercial travel.

former Army ordnance officer who works out of Virginia Beach, Va. What began in the early 1970s as Boyer's avocation has since evolved into a 24/7 national network whose volunteer aviators ferry patients between medical and research facilities across the country.

In the beginning, Boyer ran the charitable airlift program by word-of-mouth from a shoebox full of 5-by-7 note cards containing donor, pilot and constituent information. Today, MMA is a computerized network that manages air transport for servicemembers, veterans and their families, along with other patients who need flights to medical facilities within 1,000 miles of their homes.

"At first it was only me," Boyer says. "But later, a few friends – a retired Air Force general, an Air Force major and a Washington, D.C., pastor – volunteered their time and planes. Today, we have more than 1,500 pilots in the mid-Atlantic region. Nationwide, we have 7,500 to 8,000 pilots who volunteer time and planes to get people to and from their medical appointments."

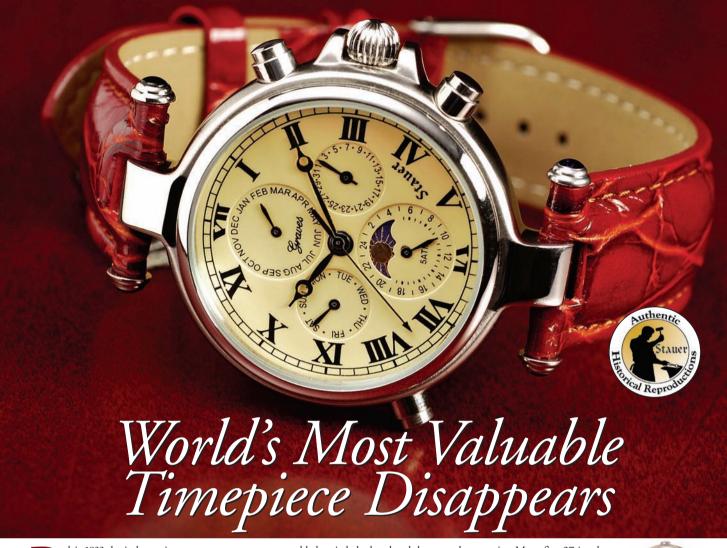
Through its programs, MMA completed nearly 12,000 missions during fiscal 2007 – up from 7,100 in 2006. About 430 of them were flown in support of troops, veterans and their families affected by operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Through its National Patient Travel Center help line, MMA also provides information on the many charitable long-distance air medical transport options. MMA operates several charitable and discount commercial airline programs, providing tickets for patients who need to fly more than 1,000 miles to their medical facilities. Deep-discounted ticket programs are also available for needy people traveling for compassion and bereavement purposes. MMA also helps patients by working to lower air ambulance costs.

Boyer is widely acknowledged as the father of modern charitable medical air transportation. He recently received *AARP Magazine's* Inspire Impact Award, recognizing him as one of 10 "inspired go-getters" in the United States who is "improving our world in myriad ways." While he graciously accepts the accolades, his focus remains fixed on those whom MMA and its programs serve.

"Our job is to get folks to and from their longdistance medical appointments," Boyer says. "A patient finds us. We find volunteer pilots or obtain airline tickets. It's no more complicated than that."

James V. Carroll is assistant editor for The American Legion Magazine.



ack in 1933, the single most important watch ever built was engineered for a quiet millionaire collector named Henry Graves. It took over three years and the most advanced horological technique to create the multifunction masterpiece. This one-of-a-kind watch was to become the most coveted piece in the collection of the Museum of Time near Chicago. Recently this ultra-rare innovation was auctioned off for the record price of \$11,030,000 by Sotheby's to a secretive anonymous collector. Now the watch is locked away in a private vault in an unknown location.

We believe that a classic like this should be available to true watch aficionados, so Stauer replicated the exact Graves design in the limited edition Graves '33.

The antique enameled face and Bruguet hands are true to the original. But the real beauty of this watch is on the inside. We replicated an extremely complicated automatic movement with 27 jewels and seven hands. There are over 210 individual parts that

are assembled entirely by hand and then tested for over 15 days on Swiss calibrators to ensure accuracy. The watches are then reinspected in the United States upon their arrival.

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rotor winds the mainspring. It never needs batteries and never needs to be manually wound. The precision crafted gears are "lubricated" by 27 rubies that give the hands a smooth sweeping movement. And the watch is tough enough to stay water resistant to 5 atmospheres. The movement is covered by a 2-year warranty.

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### RAPID FIRE

[VERBATIM]

"That is what I wish. I wish to be martyred."

**Khalid Sheikh Mohammed,** during a death-penalty trial for his role as mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks

"I condemn absolutely any members of the public who show abuse or discrimination to our armed forces. They should be thanked for the great job that they're doing, and they should be encouraged to wear the uniform in public."

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, after he learned that the commander of a UK airbase ordered military personnel to wear civilian clothes when they leave base

"She has the impression that people want to silence her."

Francois-Xavier Kelidjian, lawyer for Brigitte Bardot, after the 73-year-old film star was fined for provoking discrimination and racial hatred, by writing that Muslims are destroying France

"This is the century when white people will become a minority in this country. What that means is, right now, we need to have a clear picture of where we're headed."

**Ben Jealous,** newly named president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

"We no longer have a moral compass."

Hartford, Conn., Police Chief Daryl Roberts,

after security cameras captured dozens of witnesses driving past a 78-year-old hit-and-run victim without stopping to help

"You want to be naked in private, fine. ... I just don't want you to prance around like a puffed-up chicken in front of my kids and think it's OK."

Tony Strange of Westmore, Vt., on the nearby nudist beach at Southwest Cove. He is circulating a petition to convince the town board to pass an anti-nudity ordinance.

"Once they do get an inventory, I think we're not going to like what we find."

Robert Bea, a University of California-Berkeley levee expert, after an Army Corps of Engineers official told reporters that the federal agency lacks an inventory for thousands of the country's levees, and has no idea of their condition

"Some of them are embarrassed. They say, 'I was trying to make it until Friday,' and they couldn't do it."

**Gary Siley,** AAA employee, on the increase in drivers needing assistance after trying to stretch their mileage and running out of gas

"Let me tell you something. If I invade IHOP, pancakes are going to be cheaper in my house."

Comedian Chris Rock,

questioning why gas prices are so high despite the U.S. occupation of Iraq

"Mr. Fujimori ... you are sleeping!"

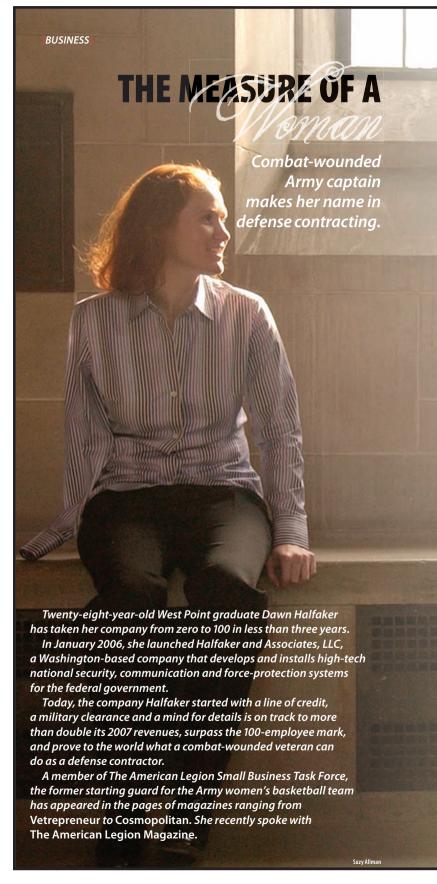
Peruvian judge César San Martin, scolding the former president for snoozing at his own trial, where he stands accused of authorizing death-squad kidnappings and massacres in the early 1990s

### "They have to try to take everything away."

**Linda Garcia**, a Seattle resident, on a proposal by the city's parks department to ban beach bonfires because of global warming fears

### "Invincible Ugly Woman"

China's translation of the hit American sitcom "Ugly Betty," which is scheduled to be adapted by the Hunan satellite television network this year



**Q:** Can you describe your experience in Iraq? **A:** I deployed in February 2004. I went to Kuwait and then into Iraq a couple weeks later as an MP. I was a platoon leader at the time, so I had about 32 soldiers I was responsible for, about 45 minutes north of Baghdad.

I was wounded June 19, 2004, by a rocket-propelled grenade. We came around a corner and got hit with an RPG. I was in the first vehicle in the convoy. The rocket-propelled grenade went straight through the front of the vehicle and down my right side. It took off my arm and gave me some other nasty injuries. It left me a little bit lifeless there in the truck. Luckily, my driver was still with it. He basically got us out of the kill zone and took us back to the police station. There was a squad leader in the vehicle, as well, who lost his arm. Very similar injuries.

**Q:** You went from the field hospital in Iraq to Landstuhl, to Walter Reed, and you were in a coma. Then you woke up. Do you remember regaining consciousness?

A: You wake up, and you don't understand what's happening, what's going on. I didn't understand why I wasn't with my platoon. They told me I'd lost my arm. I didn't know. That was a crucial point in my life, no longer having an arm. From that point on, it was all about getting better.

**Q:** Now you wear a business suit. But you don't use a prosthetic arm. Why?

**A:** I have three of them. I don't wear one by choice.

**Q:** You've had a lot of business success early. To what do you attribute that?

A: I would not say I am naturally an entrepreneur. I'd say I am naturally someone who just wants to carry on and endure. I had some unique opportunities to do some consulting, based on my experiences in Iraq and some other things I had been through. There were some opportunities with government agencies, but to make them work, really, I had to form my own company. So I got my first contract and did some consulting. I was the only employee. Other opportunities came up. So I had a chance to start a business and take it to the next level.

**Q:** Your business is somewhat difficult to describe, let alone excel at. What was it like to go from

military police officer to defense researcher and force-protection system developer?

A: It was a shift in the sense that I wasn't a researcher, but I know what information commanders need to make decisions. I can bridge the gap from tactical to operational, based on my experiences. I knew what soldiers needed to fight. But it was a huge learning curve just understanding the industry, government contracting, research.

**Q**: Where is your work being deployed?

**A:** Actually, a lot of our innovative work is with the Navy right now, setting up operation centers around the world, but mainly in the continental United States, basically bringing the Navy to the operational capacity that the Army has had for some years. An operations center has to do with flow of information. What does a commander need to make a decision? We have all the Navy regions talking to each other and all the information flowing to a central point.

**Q:** Do you foresee any of your systems put to work in the war zone where you were hit?

**A:** We have a couple of contracts right now that do necessitate travel overseas. It would be interesting for me, personally, to go back to Iraq. I might have mixed feelings, but I would love to go back.

**Q:** You are now helping other disabled veterans learn how to obtain federal contracts, as required by law. Did you, yourself, know about the opportunities in federal contracting for disabled veterans when you broke into business?

**A:** Once I got into the world of government contracting, I got smart very quickly about the availability of programs for veterans. I think the veteran program is very important.

**Q:** And you make a point of hiring veteran employees.

A: One of the things our company is committed to is hiring veterans. We are 85-percent veteran right now, and we intend to stay that way, if not more. Specifically, we are hiring wounded veterans. That's a mission very near and dear to my heart. I'll let a job sit open as long as I can, if I decide I need to put a wounded warrior in that spot. We balance our passion with our bottom line, and it's worked so far.

Jeff Stoffer



### BY MICHAEL P. TREMOGLIE

Leave it to the Marines to find people who not only can field strip an M16 but can also clean and polish a trombone, people who not only can storm a beach through a hail of bullets but can also play the tranquil notes of Brahms' Lullaby.

Such are the talented men and women of the

U.S. Marine Corps bands. All 14 bands are staffed by personnel who receive the same training and fulfill the same combat roles required of other Marines. The exception is the 130-member U.S. Marine Band, called "The President's Own." As the primary band for White House ceremonies, this is the one most familiar to the public.

band for public events, contact the commander of the Marine installation nearest you or write to: Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps

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There are 50 musicians and one officer in each of the 12 "fleet bands" located at bases in Quantico, Va.; Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune, N.C.; New Orleans; Parris Island, S.C.; Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; Albany, Ga.; Camp Pendleton, Twentynine Palms, Miramar and San Diego, Calif.; and Okinawa, Japan. The other two units – the Drum and Bugle Corps (also known as "The Commandant's Own"), which numbers 81 musicians, and the aforementioned "The President's Own" – are stationed in Washington, D.C.

Applicants not only have to qualify as musicians, they also have to qualify as Marines. Not everyone can make the grade.

Those auditioning are required to play a prepared piece of music they choose, then play scales and, finally, perform a sight reading.

Once musicians qualify, they attend recruit training, followed by Marine combat training. Next, they head to the School of Music in Norfolk, Va., where Army, Navy and Marine musicians sharpen their skills. Over a period of 24 weeks, Marine musicians are instructed in music theory, ear training, concert band, jazz ensemble, contempo-

rary music ensemble, improvisation and drill band. They also spend about three hours each week in physical training.

The schedule is demanding. Days begin at about 5 a.m. for most students, and practice usually takes place in the evenings or on weekends.

Virginia Allen, an instructor at Philadelphia's world-famous Curtis Institute of Music, served as an Army officer and taught at the school. "The quality of education at the School of Music has always been excellent," she

says, pointing out that music develops *esprit de corps*, builds morale, relieves stress and counteracts loneliness.

Throughout history, fables from many cultures have featured the archetype of a hero who is ruthless when vanquishing evil, yet kind, compassionate, and willing to help those in need. All cultures esteem the warrior-poet – someone able to slay dragons, yet compose a beautiful melody or sonnet. The Celts had Ossian, the greatest poet in Ireland and a Fianna warrior. The Romans had Ennius, a centurion who later wrote poetry. The Vikings had Egill Skallagrímsson.

We have the musicians of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Michael P. Tremoglie is a freelance writer and a former Philadelphia police officer.

[NATIONAL SECURITY]

### **DoD on PRC**

The Pentagon's 2008 report on the military power of the People's Republic of China paints an ominous picture:

- The PRC is "pursuing comprehensive transformation from a mass army designed for protracted wars of attrition on its territory to one capable of fighting and winning short-duration, high-intensity conflicts along its periphery against high-tech adversaries."
- There are between 990 and 1,070 short-range ballistic missiles opposite Taiwan, and the PRC "is increasing the size of this force at a rate of more than 100 missiles per year."
- "China bases 490 combat aircraft within un-refueled operational range of Taiwan, and has the airfield capacity to expand that number by hundreds."
- In the past year, numerous computer networks around the world, including those owned by the U.S. government, were "subject to intrusions that appear to have originated within the PRC."
- The Chinese navy "has received seven new domestically produced surface combatants in the past two years."

[WAR ON TERROR]

### 'What has all this been for? ... What is winning?'

In a House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing April 9, Gen. David Petraeus responded to questions about the reasons for war in Iraq.

**Rep. Robert Wexler, D-Fla.:** What has all this been for? And please, respectfully, don't tell us, as you told Sen. Warner yesterday, to remove a brutal dictator. That's not good enough .... What did Stuart Wolfer and the other 4,024 sons and daughters die

for? ... Please tell us, General: what is winning?"

**Gen. Petraeus:** First of all, Congress, let me tell you that what we are fighting for is national interests. It is interests that, as I stated, have to do with al-Qaeda, a sworn enemy of the United States and the free world.

It has to do with the possible spread of sectarian conflict in Iraq .... It has to do with regional stability of a region that is of critical importance to the



global economy. And it has to do with the influence of Iran, another obviously very important element in that region.

In terms of what it is that we are trying to achieve, I think simply it is a country that is at peace with itself and its neighbors .... We're not after the Holy Grail in Iraq. We're not after Jeffersonian democracy. We're after conditions that would allow our soldiers to disengage. And that is, in fact, what we are doing as we achieve progress, as we have with the surge ... well over one quarter of our ground combat power, five of 20 brigade combat teams, plus two Marine battalions and the Marine expeditionary unit by the end of July."

Wexler: "Thank you."

### Most Americans 'don't know enough' about Petraeus

On the eve of Army Gen. David Petraeus' congressional testimony, the Pew Research Center polled 1,001 adults about the top U.S. commander in Iraq.

- **45** Percent of Republicans who rated Petraeus positively
- **19** Percent of Democrats who gave the general the thumbs up
- **25** Percent of independents who agreed
- **55** Percent of Americans who said they don't know enough about Petraeus to offer an opinion
- **27** Percent who said they view Petraeus favorably
- **18** Percent who said they have an unfavorable view of the general

[WAR ON TERROR]

### **FYI on AQI**

Data about al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) seized in Sinjar challenges the view that suicide attacks in Iraq are mostly homegrown.
As *The Washington Post* reports, 90 percent of suicide bombers have been foreigners. And AQI is dominated by foreign imports. Forty percent of those detailed in the records were Saudi, and 40 percent were North African, almost half of whom were Libyan.

.....

**IFOREIGN AFFAIRS** 

### Standing guard

France is building a naval base in Abu Dhabi, directly across from Iran. The *International Herald Tribune* reports that the 400-man permanent installation is France's first in the Persian Gulf.

President Nicolas Sarkozy says the base "is a sign to all that France is participating in the stability of this region of the world."



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A quick response

### *lowa Legion acts after tornado, flooding devastate communities.*

On May 25, a tornado more than a mile wide, with winds in excess of 200 mph, ripped through Parkersburg, Iowa, and nearby communities, killing seven people and destroying or damaging hundreds of homes.

Less than two weeks later, severe storms caused a levee to break and flood the nearby town of New Hartford, forcing mass evacuations.

In both disasters, The American Legion stepped up to help. Dozens of National Emergency Fund (NEF) grants have been processed and dispersed to

veterans and their families. In Parkersburg, Post 285 – one of the few buildings to escape damage – provided nearly 30,000 meals over six days.

Post 285 had planned a Memorial Day breakfast for 600 people, but ended up giving

the food to the Red Cross to serve more than 200 people forced to relocate to a shelter.

"That's when we started gathering more food," Post 285 Commander Neal Schrage said. "By Monday night, we had close to 10,000 people eating at the post. From Monday night until the following Sunday night, we served 4,500 to 5,000 meals a day."

Food came from all over. A local Kwik Star convenience store, destroyed by the tornado, donated "semi loads of food," Schrage said. Other contributors included Target, Wal-Mart, Swiss Valley Farms, Crystal Ice, and civic organizations and churches all over the state.

American Legion posts also lent a hand, including some in Ohio and Indiana. Legion Riders in Washington, Iowa, delivered a truckful of supplies and hand-delivered cash donations to Schrage, who said he was stunned by the outpouring of

support. "It's amazing that when you have a disaster food comes from heaven like manna," he said. "We started with a small pile of food, and it just kept growing."

Later, Post 285 opened its doors to Guardsmen activated to help with clean-up efforts, providing a place for soldiers to rest in shifts, and served as a command post for FEMA, Red Cross and Iowa State Patrol rescue and relief workers.

More than 40 families from Post 285 were affected by the tornado, and turned to the Legion's NEF for help. The first batch of checks was turned around in three days.

- Steve Brooks, Philip M. Callaghan



An American Legion publication, "Disaster Preparedness and Response for American Legion Posts" (Stock No. 58-002), offers complete details for planning, organizing and executing a program that responds effectively to disasters.

(202) 861-2700 www.legion.org/ documents/legion/pdf/ disaster\_07.pdf



[MEMORIAM]

### Maupin family lays son to rest

Thousands attended the funeral of Army Staff Sgt. Keith "Matt" Maupin at Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati on April 29, nearly four years after insurgents captured the soldier in an ambush west of Baghdad. Services followed a 20-hour visitation at Union Township Civic Center, where 10,000 people passed his casket.

On March 30, Army officials told Keith and Carolyn Maupin that their missing son died in Iraq. "My heart sinks, but I know they can't hurt him anymore," Keith said then. *The Dayton Daily News* reported that a tip from an Iraqi led to the discovery of Maupin's remains in northwest Baghdad; DNA testing confirmed his identity.

"Matt Maupin was not recruited; Matt walked into our station and enlisted," said Master Sgt. Billy Ray Durham, the Army Reserve recruiter who signed up Maupin. "I knew from the start he would make an excellent soldier ... We all wish that he had walked off that plane yesterday with that goofy smile I remember so well."

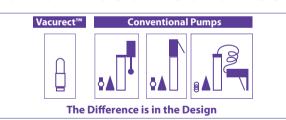
In April 2007, *The American Legion Magazine* published an article about Maupin and his parents. Three other soldiers remain missing in Iraq.



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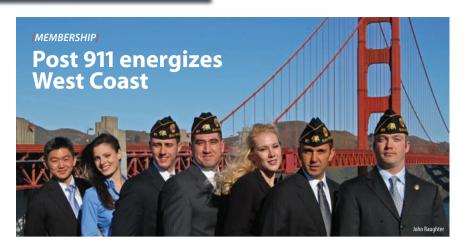
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With its progressive politics, high cost of living and lack of military bases, San Francisco is not a place one would look to find the newest generation of Legionnaires. Yet the Bay Area is now home to one of the fastest-growing and unique posts in The American Legion.

"If The American Legion can succeed in San Francisco, and we are proving that it can, it can succeed anywhere," says Michael Gerold, commander of American Legion Post 911.

As its moniker suggests, the new post was born in the aftermath of the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history. Fittingly, its membership ranks are dominated by veterans of the war on terror. Chartered on Sept. 11, 2007, the post already had more than 100 Legionnaires by spring. Moreover, 84 percent of its membership is younger than 27 years old.

The post's Web site, **www.legionpost911.net**, reflects the interests of a new generation of veterans. "The first-of-its-kind Legion SCUBA, paint-ball, triathlon, skydiving, and Expedition Adventure League are now available to the new generation of high-adventure seekers," it proclaims.

Another way the post is reaching younger veterans is through X-Box Live. At any given time, tens of thousands of people are on the network playing "Call of Duty IV: Modern Warfare," and with the group screen name 'P911' the post is able to recruit members from as far away as Puerto Rico, New York, Massachusetts and even Iraq.

"We plan to expand our outreach through new media," Gerold says. "We have an information officer who will put our footprint on MySpace, Facebook, SecondLife.com, Yahoo, our Virtual Post 911 and podcasts."

– John Raughter

[AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL]

### Nebraska teen named 2007 player of the year

Blaine Drozd of Genoa, Neb., has been selected as the 2007 George W. Rulon American

Legion Baseball National Player of the Year. The selection is made on the basis of integrity, mental attitude, cooperation, citizenship, sportsmanship,



scholastic aptitude and good conduct. After being selected as the 2007 Department of Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year, Drozd was then named the Central Plains Region Player of the Year and received a \$1,000 scholarship.

As the George W. Rulon American Legion National Player of the Year, he receives a \$4,000 scholarship and a trip to the 90th National Convention in Phoenix to receive his award. Drozd, the second Nebraska player to win the honor, received his award June 16 at Hall of Fame Game ceremonies in Cooperstown, N.Y.

George W. Rulon served The American Legion for 25 years as American Legion Baseball program coordinator. Gatorade has sponsored the regional and player of the year scholarships for 22 years.

[NATIONAL SECURITY]

### Des Moines chief named Law Enforcement Officer of Year

Des Moines Chief of Police Judy Bradshaw will receive The American Legion's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award at the 90th National Convention in Phoenix.

In 28 years, Bradshaw has worked in vice, narcotics and tactical units, special operations, and the detective and inspectional services bureau. She also made time to earn two degrees from Drake University, serve on several community boards, complete courses at the FBI National Academy and the Harvard School of Government, and raise two young children.

American Legion Post 37 in Ames, Iowa, nominated Bradshaw as Department Law Officer of the Year. The Department of Iowa then nominated her for the national award.

Bradshaw's accomplishments include establishing a department K-9 unit, a domestic-response team to provide assistance to families and children who have experienced abuse, and a program to assist officers deployed on military duty and their families. She also authored a study on crack cocaine and gangs, one of her several published works.



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[MEDAL OF HONOR]



### Master Sgt. Woodrow Wilson Keeble U.S. Army

On March 3, President George W. Bush awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously to Army Master Sgt. Woodrow Wilson Keeble, praising the Sioux Indian's great courage in World War II and the Korean War.

Near Sangsan-ni, Korea, on Oct. 20, 1951,

Keeble braved enemy firepower and grenades to aid a pinneddown platoon. Crawling forward in a one-man assault, he destroyed or neutralized three enemy positions.

Keeble, who died in 1982, was recommended twice for the Medal of Honor, but the paperwork was lost each time. Eventually, the legal deadline passed. In late 2007, the four senators from the Dakotas succeeded in passing legislation to give him his long-overdue medal.



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### **FINDING JOB FAIRS**

The American Legion works with companies and agencies that offer job fairs for veterans across the nation. For updated information about events, visit them online.

- **AVUE TECHNOLOGIES:** Web site focused on improving government employment opportunities for veterans. *www.vetjobs.us*
- MILITARY.COM: Register for events online. www.military.com, click on "Career Fairs"
- RECRUIT MILITARY, LLC: Register for events online. www.recruitmilitary.com, click on "Job Seekers"

**IECONOMICS** 

### Is your business "Googleicious"?

What are the secrets that can make your veteran business easier to find on the Internet? There are several factors involved. Some have to do with your Web site; others have to do with other people's Web sites.



Ninety percent of getting highly rated by search engines is completely free of charge. With a little bit of elbow grease, you, too, can make your veteran-owned business "Googleicious."

Here are the top five ways to get yourself listed on the major search engines:

- **1. Have a Web site.** It doesn't have to be elaborate, but you should have something for potential customers to look at if they are contemplating doing business with you. Having a Web presence gives your company credibility, but believe it or not, you can be Googleicious even without a Web site.
- **2. SEO (Search Engine Optimization).** This covers a lot of ground, far too much to cover in this article, but if you type "Search Engine Optimization" into your search engine, you will see what I mean.
- **3. Write short articles for local newspapers.** This will get you listed on their sites. Make sure you write about your business specialty and make it educational, not promotional. You're always entitled to add your contact information at the end of the article, and that is all you need for the search engines to find you.
- **4. Participate in blogs.** A blog is simply an online conversation in which you answer a question someone has posted. Look for sites that are related to your industry and look for their blog sections. Remember, include your contact information in your answer.
- **5. Submit written testimony "for the record" to Congress.** This is my secret weapon. Every industry in the United States is represented in Congress in one way or another. The Senate and the House conduct hundreds of hearings every year. Congressional testimony becomes part of the official record, is recorded in the Federal Register and is stored in the National Archives forever. Veterans have built-in committees that conduct hearings each month. Next issue, I will tell you how to write your testimony correctly, for maximum exposure and mileage.

If you want to learn more about making your company Googleicious, or simply need small business advice, drop me a line by e-mail. Until then, I'll be "On Point" for veterans in business.

Readers are welcome to send their questions for "On Point" directly to the author at **Icelli@nevbrc.org**. Louis J. Celli, Jr. is a retired Army master sergeant who has started and developed businesses, and has counseled hundreds of veteran entrepreneurs. He is CEO of the Northeast Veterans Business Resource Center.



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**ILIVING WELL1** 

# Alcoholism has strong genetic component

#### BY JOEL KUPERSMITH

Each year, alcohol addiction or abuse costs our nation nearly \$185 billion and is linked to more than 100,000 preventable deaths. Someone can misuse alcohol – drink too often, too much, or at inappropriate times – without being addicted. The outcomes, though,

THE HALLMARKS
OF ALCOHOLISM

CRAVINGS Addicts feel a
strong need to drink.

**LOSS OF CONTROL** They are unable to control how much they drink.

### **PHYSICAL DEPENDENCE**

Withdrawal symptoms such as sweating, shakiness or anxiety occur when alcohol use stops.

TOLERANCE Alcoholics develop a tolerance for the effects of alcohol and need to drink ever-increasing amounts to feel the same "pleasure." are often similar: traffic accidents, poor job performance, family disharmony, physical illness. Medical problems can include cancer, cirrhosis of the liver and brain damage.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), between 40 and 60 percent of a person's risk for alcoholism is genetically determined. VA researchers are taking part in an NIAAA program that has collected extensive clinical and genetic data from more than 3,000 people afflicted by alcoholism, in an effort to identify genes linked with the disease that may play a role in new therapies.

Along similar lines, a VA team in Chicago has homed in on the genetic and biochemical link between alcoholism and anxiety. The research focuses on a molecule called CREB, which controls a number of genes. Results from lab studies may point the way to new drug targets.

Other teams are working to improve screening for alcohol misuse. A recent study showed that VA successfully implemented a new screening program in more than 800 outpatient clinics. In a year, 93 percent of VA outpatients were screened for alcohol misuse, a quarter testing positive.

VA has also documented the benefits of participating in programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous. One study showed that veterans who entered treatment or AA early were far more likely to be in remission after three years, and to stay in remission even after 16 years.

Joel Kupersmith, M.D., is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.

This article is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

#### [STATEMENT]

"Recent reports in the media that the Department of Veterans Affairs is testing drugs on war veterans are inaccurate and misleading. In our PTSD and smoking cessation study, our research is to learn if it is easier to stop smoking when smoking cessation treatment is combined with PTSD therapy, or whether the two therapies are more effective if they are provided separately. In either case, patients are receiving treatment recommended by their own doctors, using counseling with or without FDA-approved medication that includes Varenicline (Chantix). Participation in this program is voluntary, and all participants are closely monitored ....

"In November 2007, FDA issued an 'early communication' to health-care providers, indicating concerns had arisen about the medication having a possible side effect involving mental health; VA immediately passed along that concern to practitioners at all of our medical centers. On Feb. 1, FDA issued a public-health advisory to providers, providing more information on potential side effects, of which clinicians and patients should be aware. VA distributed this alert to pharmacists in its system on that same day, and to researchers on Feb. 5. FDA has never asked that Varenicline be removed from the market, and it continues to be FDA-approved as a safe and efficacious medication.

"VA's letter to patients ... clearly and specifically requested patients (to) come in and discuss possible side effects, of which they should be aware; professionals felt that the issue of suicide should be discussed in a clinical setting, not in a mailing to a group of patients.

"The implication that a modest payment for volunteers in medical research programs is somehow wrong, is a distortion. Such payments are a widely used practice, both in VA and in the private sector, to help volunteers pay for expenses."

Department of Veteran Affairs, responding to a Washington Times article in June that reported the government is testing drugs with severe side effects , such as psychosis and suicidal behavior, on veterans, using cash payments to attract patients.

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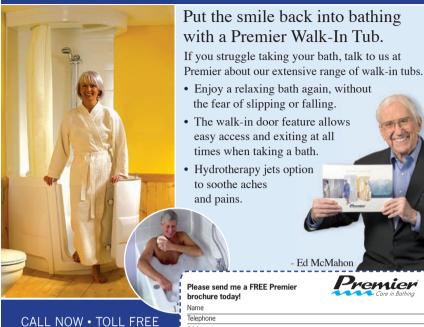
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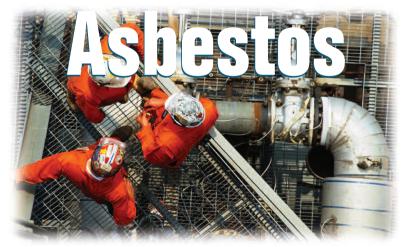
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Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine

will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

#### Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military pho-tos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to *The American Legion* Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or

e-mail **reunions@legion.org.**The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a selfaddressed stamped envelope to The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Include the listing's CID number in your response

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**Society "Wolfhounds,"** Salt Lake City, 9/16-21, Joseph Guchek, (732) 572-2615, wolfhoundpack@ gmail.com; 32nd Inf Rgt Assn "Queen's Own," Atlantic City, NJ, 9/17-20, Helen Dyckson, (727) 697-2135, heland@verizon.net; 79th Eng Const Bn (Korea), St. Louis, 10/8-11, Bobby Thompson, (304) 776-2629, bobbyb301t6@aol.com; 134th, 137th, 164th Inf (Camp Rucker, AL, 1953-1955), Miamisburg, OH, 9/12-14, Ron Bellotti, (937) 849-0737, belloe@yahoo.com; 592nd Trans Co, Myrtle Beach, SC, 9/14-19, Ken Scott, (616) 363-7828, scottyk37@comcast.net; 630th Eng LE, Branson, MO, 9/19-20, Cecil Brown, (731) 415-6460, brownlinda13@aol.com; 8125th Sentry Dog Det (Korea, 1954-1955), Branson, MO, 10/12-15, John Fickes, (303) 452-3503, bobnpat@q.com; Battle of the Bulge Vets, Columbus, OH, 9/9-14, Ed Lambert, (856) 304-3106, edlambert@mail.com; Eng OCS (1941-1942), Nashville, TN, 10/29-11/2, E.T. Mealing, (404) 231-3402, teocsa@comcast.net

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Irvin Gushen, Dept. of Michigan. Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1993-1995.

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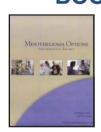
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Robert L. Steinberg is licensed to practice law in the State of Texas and in the State of New York. Principal office located in Houston, Texas. Local counsel will be associated in the client's state filing. Cases are likely to be referred.

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**A CHAPLAIN** was extremely nervous about his first funeral service, but the undertaker assured him that he would prompt him.

All went well until, at the close, the undertaker whispered to him to instruct the family to come up and view the body. "Will the family now come forward and pass around the bier?" the chaplain said, cringing inwardly when he heard his own words.

Later, he overheard two cemetery workers talking. "I didn't get any beer," one said. "Did you?"

"You heard the chaplain," the other replied. "It was just for the family."

**TWO DUMB FISHERMEN** decided to rent a boat on a lake. After fishing for hours at various spots and catching nothing, they decided to try one more time before calling it quits. Suddenly, fish started biting and they caught their limit inside 20 minutes.

"Hey, we should mark this spot so next time we'll know where to fish," the first man told his buddy.

"Good idea," the second man replied, taking out a can of spray paint and making a large X on the floor of the boat.

"Why'd you do that?" his friend asked.
"Now anyone who rents this boat will know where to fish."



"We need to disguise these numbers.

Take this down to accounts deceivable."



"OK, the shopping cart does roll forward when I push it. Now what?"



"Another credit-card offer – and not a moment too soon!"

"I REMEMBER my wedding day very distinctly," the elderly gentleman said. "I carried my new bride across the threshold of our little house and said, 'Honey, this is your and my little world.'"

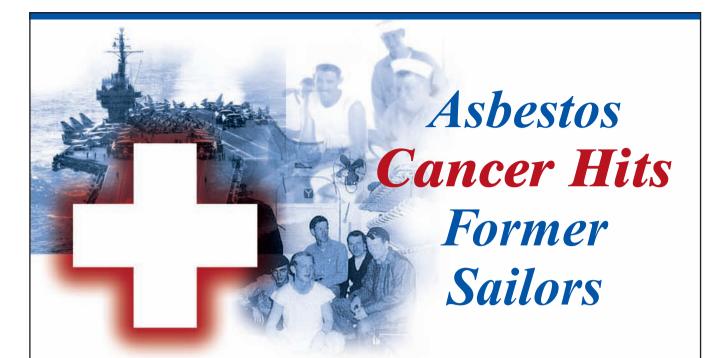
"And I suppose you've lived happily ever after?" a friend asked.

"We've been fighting for the world's championship ever since."

**A PHOTOGRAPHER** was hired to take pictures at a lawyers' convention. When he lined up his subjects, he got them to look their best by shouting, "OK, everyone say, 'Fees!'"

**AFTER FINISHING** his examination, the doctor looked at his patient and said, "I can't find the exact cause of your trouble, but it's probably due to drinking too much."

The patient replied, "Gee, I'm sorry to hear that, Doc. I'll come back when you're sober."



Many sailors who served their country proudly aboard ships in the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam War eras, are now being **diagnosed with asbestos-related cancers**.

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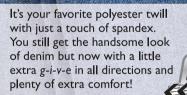
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